

The Only Watermelon

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Mary and her sister Mina were very poor. They lived in a small town, and everyone knew they were poor. Most people felt sorry for them, but it wasn't their responsibility to help the two girls.

The summer was hot and they didn't have air conditioning. All they had was an old fan that overheated if it was plugged in for more than 15 minutes. They didn't even have cold water.

Next door there was a watermelon farm. It was early in the summer, and there hadn't been much rain. So, there was only one watermelon growing in the field. The watermelon was big and fat, getting fatter and riper every day. The farmer checked the melon every day. He was really looking forward to eating the first one of the season.

Every day on the way to school, Mary looked at the watermelon and thought how cool and refreshing it would be to eat it. The summer was so hot after all!

One day, Mary came home and the watermelon was sitting on their table, already cut open. Her sister Mina was already eating it. Sweet watermelon juice was running down her chin and she had the biggest smile on her face.

Mary and Mina ate as much watermelon as they could. They stuffed themselves until their bellies were full. Their refrigerator didn't work though, so they had to throw out the rest, or flies would get it.

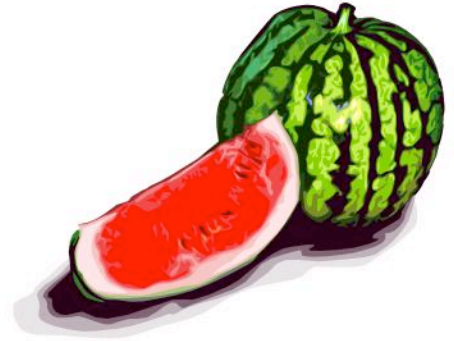
When the farmer checked his field that day, he became very angry. He had a good idea who had taken his watermelon. The farmer marched over to yell at the two girls for stealing his watermelon. When he banged on their front door, Mary, the younger sister, came to the door.

"Yes, Sir?" She asked innocently, but she looked guilty. She even had a watermelon seed stuck to her cheek!

The farmer opened his mouth to yell, but he couldn't help but see how poor the two girls were. He saw the inside of their house and shook his head. He couldn't be angry at them. "I just wanted you to know I found a few more watermelons starting to ripen. I'll bring one over when it's ready."

"Really? Thanks!" Mary replied.

She looked so excited that the farmer felt good, even if his only watermelon had been stolen. At least Mary and Mina never stole from him again, because he always shared.



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. How would you describe Mary and Mina's situation?
 - A. They are rich.
 - B. They are fun.
 - C. They are poor.
 - D. They are sad.

2. Which of the following is *NOT* one of the problems Mary and Mina have?
 - A. They don't have air conditioning.
 - B. They don't have much money.
 - C. Their fan doesn't work.
 - D. They don't have school.

3. What does Mary find when she comes home from school one day?
 - A. Mina took the watermelon.
 - B. Mina brought home a stray dog.
 - C. Mina is sick.
 - D. Mina has all A's on her report card.

4. Why does the farmer forgive the two girls?
 - A. He realized it wasn't his watermelon.
 - B. The girls gave him back his watermelon.
 - C. The farmer saw how poor they were.
 - D. None of the above

5. Why do Mary and Mina never steal from the farmer again?
 - A. He shares with them.
 - B. They moved.
 - C. The farmer died.
 - D. The farmer sold his farm.

The Only Watermelon – Answer Key

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