

Small Things Add Up

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Olivia was walking along the sidewalk on the way home with her friend Victoria. As they walked, Victoria saw something shiny. She kicked at it with her feet and sent it bouncing along.

Ting! Ting! Ting!

The shiny thing skipped across the pavement. Victoria smiled and kept walking. Victoria liked to bounce balls, skip stones, or kick things. The sound made Olivia curious, so she stopped to look.

“Hey, it’s a penny!” Olivia said excitedly. She bent down to get the coin.

“So? Those things are worthless. I have a whole bunch sitting in the bottom of my sock drawer.” Victoria watched with amusement as her friend picked up the coin.

“I don’t mind. They add up if you get enough of them.”

“It takes a hundred of them to make a dollar, and a dollar isn’t even worth much. Besides, they smell funny, too.”

“I like the way they make my finger smell when I handle a lot of them. It makes me feel rich.” Olivia grinned.

“You’re weird.”

“I always stop to pick up coins, especially silver-colored ones. I get about a dollar a month for free by doing it. That’s more than ten dollars a year to buy things with!”

“I won’t pick up anything less than a quarter. It’s annoying.”

Olivia shook her head. Her friend was fun, but sometimes she whined too much. Free money was free money. All she had to do was pick it up. “If you don’t want them, pick them up and give them to me instead.”

“Maybe.” Victoria shrugged.

As they continued to walk along, they came across *another* coin. This one was a nickel. Victoria stopped and looked at it.

“Are you going to get it?” Olivia asked.

Victoria thought about it. “You made me think I need to start collecting free money, too.”

Olivia remembered what her grandfather always said: “If you don’t take it when it’s offered, it won’t be there when you need it.”

“You’re pretty smart. I think you deserve this more than me.” Victoria handed over the nickel.

“Thanks.” Olivia smiled. “I’m saving up for your birthday present anyway.”

Victoria smiled at her friend and kept an eye out for more coins as they walked the rest of the way home. It became their thing.



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

1. What do Victoria and Olivia find when they're walking?
 - A. A dollar
 - B. A penny
 - C. A quarter
 - D. A nickel

2. What does Victoria do with the penny?
 - A. She keeps it.
 - B. She throws it in the river.
 - C. She kicks it.
 - D. She gives it to her friend.

3. What does Olivia do with the penny?
 - A. She keeps it.
 - B. She throws it in the river.
 - C. She kicks it.
 - D. She gives it to her friend.

4. Why does Olivia collect money she finds?
 - A. She saves money to get things.
 - B. She donates the money.
 - C. She buys candy.
 - D. She uses it for school lunch.

5. How does Victoria feel about saving money at the end of the story?
 - A. She thinks it's a silly idea.
 - B. She thinks it's a good idea, especially if it's to buy her a birthday present!
 - C. She wants to start saving up for something important, too.
 - D. None of the above

Small Things Add Up – Answer Key

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