

## The Cell Phone

Emma sat at the kitchen table watching her older sister, Sarah. Emma had envy in her eyes. It was Sarah's 13<sup>th</sup> birthday, and she received a new cell phone.

Emma approached her mother. "Can I have a cell phone too?" asked Emma.

"Why would you need a cell phone? You're only in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade!" replied her mother.

Emma gave her mother a lot of reasons, but nothing worked. The next day in school, she spoke with her teacher, Miss Marangus. It was recess, and they were sitting on the benches by the playground.

"Why would you need a cell phone? You're only in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade!" said Miss Marangus. Emma gasped as she heard the same words spoken by her mother. She struggled to come up with a good excuse. Thankfully, the bell rang and they had to go back to class.

Emma bothered her mother night and day until she couldn't take it any longer. "Fine!" yelled her mom. "If you really want one, you can buy one. But you'll have to work all summer to come up with the money."

"I will!" said Emma with glee. Emma was true to her word. She earned money cleaning the kitchen, living room, and back porch every week. She even went to her grandmother's house and cleaned the basement for a few dollars. She had lemonade stands, cookie stands, and brownie stands. Emma was always selling something!

By the end of the summer, she had all the money. She kept it in a shoe box under her bed. "I am proud of your ambition," said her mother. "I will take you to the store on Saturday, and you can buy your new phone."

On Saturday the doorbell rang. Emma opened the door to find a girl about her age. "My name is Ella. I just moved across the street. Do you want to play?"

Emma didn't think twice. Boy did she miss playing outside! She grabbed her jacket and ran out the door. Emma and Ella climbed trees, played on the swing set, and jumped rope. They were like two peas in a pod. Emma couldn't believe how much fun she was having!

"Emma it's time to go to the store!" yelled her mother.

"But mom, I'm having so much fun. Can't we go next week?"

"Sure," said her mom with a big grin.

Emma and Ella played together all week. One day Emma looked down at Ella's feet, and asked her why she was wearing flip flops. The weather was unseasonably cold for August.

Ella explained that she and her three little sisters would be getting new sneakers in about a month. Money was tight with the move. Ella said she didn't mind, but Emma could tell that it bothered her.

On Saturday Emma got her shoebox from under the bed, and she went to the store with her mother. Instead of buying a new cell phone, Emma spent her savings on four new pairs of sneakers for her new neighbors.

Tuesday was the first day of school, and Emma introduced Ella to all her friends during lunch. They asked Ella a million questions, and admired her new sneakers.

Just as the bell rang and they stood up to go to class, Angela, one of Emma's friends, held her back.

"Show me your new cell phone before we go back to class. I know you gave up your whole summer to work for it. Do you love it?" asked Angela.

"Why would I need a cell phone?" replied Emma. "I'm only in 4<sup>th</sup> grade!"

1. What problem does Emma have? \*

- A. She wants a new pair of sneakers.
- B. Her sister, Sarah won't share her phone.
- C. She wants her own cell phone.
- D. Her friend, Ella, only wants to play outside.

2. Who thinks Emma is too young for a cell phone? Choose two answers below. \*

- A. Her mother
- B. Ella
- C. Angela
- D. Miss Marangus

3. What does the highlighted word "struggled" above mean? \*

- A. Have difficulty
- B. Feel tired
- C. Have energy
- D. Feel sad

4. What does the author mean when using the highlighted phrase "like two peas in a pod" above? \*

- A. Emma and Ella like their vegetables.
- B. Emma and Ella are very much alike.
- C. Emma and Ella like going for walks.
- D. Emma and Ella are going to dress up.

5. What big surprise happened in the story? \*

- A. Emma bought sneakers for her neighbors instead of a cell phone.
- B. Emma got new neighbors in her neighborhood.
- C. Emma talked to Miss Marangus about the cell phone.
- D. Emma's sister got a cell phone for her birthday.

6. Where does Emma keep her money? \*

- A. On a stand
- B. In a shoebox
- C. At her grandmother's house
- D. In the bank

7. What does the word "ambition" mean in the passage above? \*

- A. Determination
- B. Kindness
- C. Spunk
- D. Intelligence

**8. What is the main idea of the story? \***

- A. Cell phones are fun.
- B. Hopscotch is fun.
- C. The importance of doing your homework.
- D. The importance of being kind to others.

**9. At the end of the story, why did Emma say she was in 4th grade instead of 3rd? \***

- A. She wanted to sound older.
- B. She forgot what grade she was in.
- C. A new school year had started.
- D. Ella told her to play a pretend game.

**10. What can you infer about the author and how he feels about free time for children? \***

- A. They should spend it cleaning their rooms.
- B. They should spend it talking on cell phones.
- C. They should spend it playing outside.
- D. They should spend it making lemonade.