Story

New Neighbours

Twin sisters, Gabby and Maddy, were watching TV when they heard their parents talking in the kitchen. “I wonder if they’re talking about us?” asked Gabby. The girls turned down the volume on the TV so that they could hear what their parents were saying.

The twins watched their parents open up a gray notebook and check a **bank** website on the computer.

Mom said, “We have enough **money** in our **budget** to spend $50 to **buy** some things from the list.”

Maddy gave Gabby an excited hug. “Do you think they’re looking at the list of birthday present ideas we made?” she whispered. “Maybe we’ll get a pony!” said Gabby.

“Shhh!” said Maddy, trying to quiet her sister. But it was too late, their mother turned and looked right at them.

“Are you girls spying on us?” she asked. Gabby and Maddy entered the kitchen looking embarrassed. “Sorry, Mom,” they said.

“This isn’t a list of birthday presents for you two,” their mother said. “It’s a list of things the neighbourhood is doing to prepare for the new family that’s moving here.”

"A new family? Hooray!" said Maddy. "Do you think they'll have a pony?" asked Gabby.

Their mother smiled. "I don't think the new family will have a pony. The Tannous' are coming from very far away. They won't have many things with them when they get here. People in the neighbourhood are collecting things to help them feel comfortable in their new home," said their mother.

Gabby and Maddy looked at each other. "I want to help," said Gabby. "Me too," said Maddy, "but we don't have any money."

"It's great you want to help," said Dad. "Blankets and dishes are on the list, and we have extra ones. You can help get them ready to give to the new family."

"I have an idea too," said Mom, "What if you **fundraise** to buy something from the list?" "What does fundraise mean?" asked Gabby. "It means to collect money for something or to help someone," answered Mom.

The twins thought this was a good idea. They thought about what they could do to fundraise. They came up with an idea and made a **plan**.

Gabby and Maddy would offer to do chores for their neighbours for a week. Gabby and Maddy made a list of the chores they could do, what each would cost, and what supplies they needed for each.

Chore	Supplies	Chore	Supplies
Clean windows $1.00 per window 	• Window cleaner • Rags • Stool	Pick up mail or newspaper $1.00 per day	• none
Mop floor $2.00 	• Mop • Bucket • Soap	Water flower garden $2.00 	• Watering can

Gabby and Maddy's parents agreed to give them $10 to buy the supplies they needed. Before going shopping, the twins made a budget to keep their **spending** on track.

Their budget helped the twins make smart choices while shopping. They checked the price of each item and looked for things on sale. The twins were able to spend less than $10 and still get what they needed.

Lots of neighbours wanted to help Gabby and Maddy with their fundraising. The twins spent the week doing as many chores as they could. They kept a **log** of what they did. Gabby cleaned 20 windows, mopped 4 floors, and delivered 7 newspapers. Maddy watered 5 gardens, mopped 5 floors, and delivered the mail 5 times. At the end of the week, they made a chart to show how much money they raised:

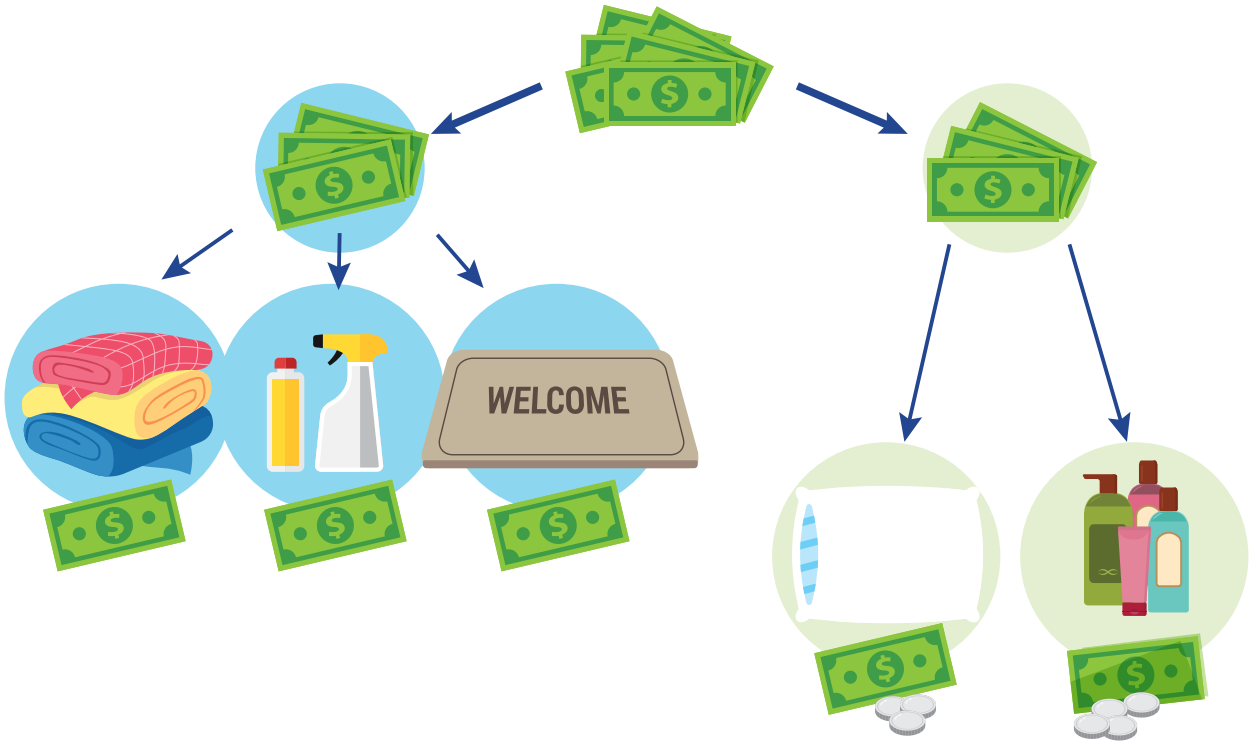
Chore	What we did	Money raised
Clean windows	20 windows x $1.00 per window	$20.00
Mop floor	9 floors x $2.00 per floor	$18.00
Pick up mail or newspaper	12 pick ups x $1.00 per day	$12.00
Water flower garden	5 gardens x $2.00 per garden	$10.00
	TOTAL MONEY RAISED	$60.00

"You did a great job with your fundraiser!" said Mom. "How are you going to spend the money?"

Gabby and Maddy **divided** the money in half so they could each spend $30.00 buying items for the new family.

Gabby divided her money into three parts. She spent one part on window cleaner, one part on fluffy new towels, and one part on a colourful welcome mat.

Maddy divided her money into two parts. One part she spent on puffy new pillows and the other part on bathroom supplies.



Gabby also picked one of her soccer balls and Maddy picked one of her stuffed bears to give to the new family.

Soon the new family moved to the neighbourhood. Gabby, Maddy, and their parents went to meet them and drop off the things they had collected and bought. “Welcome to the neighbourhood!” said Dad. “Thank you!” said Mrs. Tannous. “We’re glad to have so many kind new neighbours. These are my children Téo and Arika.”

Téo’s eyes lit up when Maddy handed him the bear. Gabby kicked her soccer ball to Arika who smiled and kicked the ball back. Before long the girls were deciding which trees made the best goal posts and taking turns defending the goal. Téo ran after them dragging his new bear.

Glossary *(Definitions of Story Words)*

Bank: A bank is a place that looks after people's money for them. After all, we can't keep our money in our jars and under our mattresses forever!

Budget: An estimate of income and spending for a period of time.

Buy: To get something by paying money for it.

Divide: To split something into two or more parts or pieces.

Expense: Something you have to pay for from the money you have.

Fundraise: To collect money for something, such as helping people, a charity, or school.

Income: Money that comes in is called income. Most people get income from a job, but it can also come from gifts, allowance, or by doing chores.

Log: To make a record of your daily activities; in this case to keep a record of the chores completed and money earned.

Money: Things like coins and bills that are used to pay for things, or to pay someone for their work.

Plan: A series of steps to follow to reach a goal.

Spending: To use money to pay for something.

Elements of a Story

Elements of a story: The pieces of a story that come together to make it complete. Story elements include character, setting and plot.

Character: The people or animals in the story.

Conflict: The problem in the story that needs to be addressed or fixed.

Plot: What happens in the story.

Setting: Where and when the story takes place.

Theme: A story's main idea.