

Name: _____

Date: _____

This story tells about long-ago times and a girl named Minna. She cannot go to school. To find out why, read the story and then answer the questions that follow.

from **The Rag Coat**

by Lauren Mills

The summer I was eight, Papa called me over to his rocking chair. I climbed on his lap and he said, "You're getting big, Minna."

"Too big for laps?" I asked.

"Not too big for mine," he said softly, "but too big to still be at home. It's nearing time you went to school."

I could hardly hold back my smiling just thinking about all the friends I would have. But I didn't want to leave Mama without a helper. "Papa," I said, "I can't go to school. Mama needs me here."

Papa just looked at me real steady and said, "They have books at school, Minna. You can learn things from those books that you can't learn at home."

"But I don't have a coat, Papa," I quietly reminded him. . . .

School started in September. Mama said I could go, but I decided not to. I still didn't have a coat to wear, and I knew it was no use starting something I'd have to quit when the weather turned cold.

Other mothers who had children in school came over to quilt with Mama. I called them the Quilting Mothers. That fall they were all working on a pattern called Joseph's Coat of Many Colors. I looked at it and said, "That Joseph sure was lucky to have such a coat. I wish I had one like that."

"Why do you say that, Minna?" Mrs. Miller asked me.

"Because then I could go to school," I said, a little embarrassed that I had mentioned it.

"Well now, Minna," said Mrs. Miller, "I don't know that any of us has a spare coat we could hand you down, but I'm sure we have some scraps to spare. We could piece them together, and you'd have a coat like Joseph's after all." Mrs. Miller looked around the room, and the other mothers nodded. . . .

My eyes filled with tears, but I wasn't embarrassed anymore. . . . Mama smiled and shook her head, and I saw tears in her eyes, too.

1. Papa wanted Minna to go to school so she could

- A. play sports.
 - B. read books.
 - C. meet people.
 - D. learn math.
-

2. What happens first in the story?

- A. Minna decides not to go to school.
 - B. The Quilting Mothers come to quilt with Mama.
 - C. Minna and her mother both get tears in their eyes.
 - D. Papa tells Minna that it is time for her to go to school.
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3. A good title for this story is

- A. Papa and Minna.
 - B. How Minna Got Her Coat.
 - C. The Quilting Mothers.
 - D. A Coat for Joseph.
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4. Minna decided not to start school because

- A. she would have to quit when it got cold.
 - B. it was a long way for a little girl to walk.
 - C. she was needed at home, to help Mama.
 - D. she liked to be home when the Quilting Mothers came.
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5. How did Papa feel about Minna going to school?

- A. He thought school was very important.
 - B. He did not want her to go because he would miss her.
 - C. He felt sad because she was getting old enough to go.
 - D. He thought school was not for girls.
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The Lemonade Stand

Karen sat at the lemonade stand with her little brother Kevin. Kevin was only five years old, but he was good at stirring the lemonade. Since Karen was ten years old, she was good at collecting the money from the customers. It was a hot summer day, and a lot of people were outside walking their dogs. Karen and Kevin loved petting the customers' dogs. They would sell glasses of lemonade to the customers and give bowls of water to the dogs. This gave Karen an idea. She changed the sign on the table to say "Lemonade and Water for Sale." After working at the lemonade stand for an hour, Karen and Kevin had made over \$3.00. This made Kevin and Karen very happy because they wanted to buy their father a nice Father's Day present. They knew that if they worked together at the lemonade stand, they could have more fun, and they could make more money. When there weren't many customers, Karen and Kevin would talk about what they might get their father.

"What if we get him a new watch?" Kevin asked his sister.

"I don't think we'll earn enough money to get him a watch," Karen replied.

"What about a new pair of socks?" Kevin asked.

"We have enough money, but I wouldn't want to receive socks as a present, would you?" Karen replied.

"No, you are right. I don't like it when Mom gives us socks." Kevin said.

"What if we took a nice picture of the two of us working at the lemonade stand? Then we could put it in a nice frame and give it to him," Karen said.

"That's a great idea, Karen!" Kevin said, jumping out of his seat. "I'll go get Mom to take the picture for us."

"Great!" Karen exclaimed.

When Kevin came back holding his mom's hand in one hand and the camera in the other, a friend of Karen's came by with her dog. Karen asked her friend Dawn if they could use her and her dog in the picture. This would show Karen and her brother selling to customers. Dawn said that would be great, and they gathered around the lemonade stand. Karen's mom took the picture and said they could go shopping for the picture frame the next day. Karen and her brother were very happy. They had earned money and thought of a great present for their father.

6. What did Karen and Kevin do when there were no customers?
- A. They read books about gifts.
 - B. They made lemonade to sell.
 - C. They discussed gifts for their father.
 - D. They walked dogs to earn money.
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7. What is the root of the word *gathered*?
- A. ed
 - B. gath
 - C. gather
 - D. gat
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8. The story took place during the

- A. summer.
 - B. winter.
 - C. spring.
 - D. fall.
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9. Who took the picture?

- A. Dawn
 - B. Kevin
 - C. Karen
 - D. Karen's mom
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10. Place the following story events in the correct order.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Karen's mom took the picture.2. Karen changed the sign.3. Karen and Kevin set up the lemonade stand.4. Karen and Kevin decided on a gift. |
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- A. 3, 2, 4, 1
- B. 2, 4, 3, 1
- C. 1, 4, 2, 3
- D. 4, 3, 1, 2

Answer Key

1. B) read books.
2. D) Papa tells Minna that it is time for her to go to school.
3. B) How Minna Got Her Coat.
4. A) she would have to quit when it got cold.
5. A) He thought school was very important.
6. C) They discussed gifts for their father.
7. C) gather
8. A) summer.
9. D) Karen's mom
10. A) 3, 2, 4, 1