

Name _____

Analyzing characters/
reviewing skills



Brian's Bike

Brian sat on his front doorstep. He really wanted a new bike. Joe had just gotten one for his birthday, and Tyler's was only about a year old. Brian had had his for five years. The seat was up as high as it could go, and his legs were still too long for his bike. Brian wanted a bike just like Joe's and Tyler's. Their bikes were perfect for popping wheelies and cruising over bumps. If only he had \$110.00. All he could come up with was \$33.67. Where could he get the rest of the money he needed?

Brian thought and thought. His birthday was still five months away, and he was too young to mow lawns. What could he do to get the money? Maybe his dad would advance him his allowance for the next few months. He got three dollars every Friday if he did all of his chores. His dad had agreed to do this once before, when Brian needed an extra six dollars. Maybe his sister would loan him the money. She had a lot of money saved up from baby-sitting. Baby-sitting! That was it! Brian could baby-sit. Oops! Wait a minute. No one would hire Brian to baby-sit. He still was not allowed to stay home by himself yet. What could he do to get the money? Brian sat and thought.

Just then, the phone rang. Mrs. Timmons' dog had gotten out again. She asked Brian if he could find Fifi for her. Brian said he would be happy to help Mrs. Timmons. She was getting so old. She could not run after feisty Fifi anymore. Brian immediately started looking for Fifi. He spotted her behind a tree in the Kirbys' yard.



After chasing Fifi through three different yards, Brian finally caught the frisky dog. He returned her to Mrs. Timmons. Mrs. Timmons was so thankful that she handed Brian two dollars. Brian thanked Mrs. Timmons. He told her that she did not have to pay him. Then Brian had an idea. Now he knew what he could do to earn money. He would set up a pet service! He could take care of people's pets when they were gone. He figured there were at least 12 dogs he could look after, a few cats, and even some fish. Brian would have that bike in no time!

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Check the words that describe Brian.

lazy optimistic industrious hardworking
whiney stressed ungrateful pessimistic

2. Why could Brian not baby-sit to earn money? _____

3. If Brian's dad agreed to advance him his allowance, how many weeks of allowance would Brian need in order to buy his bike? _____

4. If you were Brian's dad, would you advance his allowance for the bike? Why or why not? _____

5. List Brian's ideas for getting \$77.00. Then think of three additional ideas.

Brian's Ideas

a.

b.

c.

Other Ideas

a.

b.

c.

6. What should Brian do to get his pet service started? _____

7. How well do you think Brian will do with his new job? _____
