

01 Three Good Friends

Daniel, Jimmy and Luke are good friends. They go to the same high school and will apply for college next year. They pay attention to their studies because they want to go to a good school. However, even with their hard work, the three of them still get a lot of stress from their schoolwork.

One day, Luke said to Daniel and Jimmy, "I feel down about my grades. Winter vacation is coming. Why don't we go bowling together? Will you come with me?" Daniel said, "That is a great idea. My mother said I cannot play online computer games for a week because I did poorly on my English test." Then Jimmy said, "Great! My math grades have not gotten better, either. I can't stand the stress I get from math classes any longer. However, I think we should go camping in the mountains." In the end, the three agreed that it was best to go camping rather than go bowling.

Later, after their parents said it was okay to go, the three

friends started for the mountains. At the camp site, Luke got some wood to build a fire. Daniel helped Jimmy put up the tent. The mountain air was really fresh. After a game of baseball, the boys went to bed.

During the night, Daniel woke Jimmy and Luke up. He said "Hey!

Look at the pretty stars! They are amazing!" Jimmy said, "Yes! Beautiful! Schoolwork has caused us much pain. We should enjoy our lives and our friendship. What do you think about the stars, Luke?"

Luke's short answer made them jump up with shock. Can you guess what he said? "Where is our tent?"

02A Kind Person

George works as a police officer, and he is always kind to everyone. Whenever he sees people in need, he will rush to help them out. For example, he will not stop homeless people who beg for money. Instead, he will give them some change to make sure they have food to eat. If he knows old people who are sick and in need of help, he will send someone out to take care of them. Also, he will not give tickets to people who lose control of their dogs, even if the dogs run around everywhere.

One day, George was walking on the street. He saw a little girl crying. "What's the matter?" George asked. "Is there anything I can do for you?" The little girl looked at George and said, "I lost my purse on my way home." George asked, "What does it look like? Is there anything in it?" "It is a small, purple purse. My mother gave it to me as a present for my tenth birthday. There is fifty dollars in it!"

After finishing her words, the little girl started to cry. George was touched and tried to hold back his tears, "Don't worry little girl." he said, "I'll find the purse for you. You stay here until I'm back, okay?" The little girl nodded her head and started to calm down.

After a few minutes, George came back. "I'm sorry, little girl, but I didn't find your purse." The girl kept crying. "Hold on!" said George, "Here is fifty dollars. Cheer up!" However, the little girl didn't stop. In fact, she cried even louder. "What's going on?" George asked, "Why are you still crying?" The girl said, "I should have said I lost five hundred dollars."

With a bitter smile on his face, George safely led the girl back home.

03 The Giving Tree

Once, there was a tree that loved a little boy. The boy would come to the tree and play every day, eat apples, swing from its branches, and rest under its shade. The tree was happy to give the boy everything it had.

As the boy grew up, he came to the tree less often. Then, one day, the tree asked him why he was not coming to play anymore. The boy replied “ I need money to support my family.” So, the tree said “Take my apples and sell them. Then you’ll have money.”

The boy did as the tree suggested and could make some money. But as time passed, he wanted more and more from the tree. Finally, he asked for its trunk to build a house. The tree gave it to him.

Years went by, and the boy returned to the tree once again. He was now an older man, and the tree was a stump. The older man said he needed a place to rest, and the tree offered

its stump even though it had nothing left to give.

The older man sat on the stump and realized how much the tree had given him. He finally understood the actual value of the tree's selfless love.

Giving without expecting anything in return is the greatest form of love.