

# Paul Finds A Lot Of Money

Steve grabbed his bat and glove. "See ya later, Mom. I'm going to Paul's." He raced out the door and slammed it behind him.

Summer vacation just began. The boys planned to play baseball every day, so they could make the freshman team.

Paul was waiting outside for Steve.

"What are you doing? Where's your stuff?" Steve lifted his bat onto his shoulder.

Paul shook his head. "I have to clean Mr. Thimpson's garage before I can go. With his broken arm, he can't do it himself. My mom always volunteers me to help the Thimpson's. They're kind of old."

"Okay," said Steve. "I'll help you. We'll get done quicker working together."

The boys went down the block to the Thimpson's and got started. They found a couple of brooms and shovels. Before they swept, they put boxes that were strewn around the garage floor on shelves.

As Paul put a big box on a shelf, it fell off and with it fell an envelope. He picked it up. It wasn't sealed, so he opened it. There were lots of one hundred dollar bills.

"You've got to see this." He pulled out a handful of bills and showed Steve.

"Whoa," said Steve. "Where did you get that?"

Paul pointed to the shelf. "It just fell down when the box fell. There's got to be a couple of thousand dollars here." Paul looked past Steve to the garage door opening. "The coast is clear. If we take some, I bet no one will ever know."

Steve furrowed his brow and shook his head. "Are you crazy? That's stealing."

"Well, I do a lot of chores for them and don't get paid. It's not really stealing, it's kind of payment for my hard work."

Steve grabbed the money from Paul's hand and stuffed it back in the envelope. "Knock it off. You're better than that." He put the envelope back on the shelf. "Come on. Let's get done and get to the park."

"Hello, boys." Mr. Thimpson walked into the garage, surprising them. "Mrs. Thimpson baked a chocolate cake. She wants you to come in for a piece. We sure appreciate all the things you do for us, Paul."

“Ugh . . . sure, Mr. Thimpson,” said Paul. “Let us finish up and we’ll be right in.”

Mr. Thimpson went back to his house.

“Whew,” said Paul. “That was close. You know, Steve, you’re right. I don’t know what got into me. The Thimpson’s are always trying to pay me for the work I do. My Mom won’t let me take money from them, since she thinks they don’t have that much. But, Mrs. Thimpson is always making me cakes and cookies, and she’s knitted me like five sweaters.”

The boys finished cleaning the garage then went to the house. They had big slices of chocolate cake and two glasses of milk each.

When they were about to leave, Mrs. Thimpson handed Paul a brand new bat and glove. “This is for you. Your mom said this is something you’d like. You do so much for us, we try to find little ways to show our appreciation.”

Paul looked at the bat and glove then he looked at Steve. His face got red. “Th . . . thanks so much. I love them!”

Outside, Steve put his hand on Paul’s shoulder. “See, you not only have a clear conscience, you have the bat and glove you wanted in McGroger’s Sports Store.”

**Questions**

1. What grade were Steve and Paul going into? And, what did they want to be a part of when they got there?
2. Why did Paul feel that taking the money wasn't wrong?
3. How did Steve help Paul make the right decision?
4. Why did Paul's face get red after Mrs. Thimpson gave him the bat and glove?

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**Vocabulary List**

Each of the vocabulary words below are used in the reading passage. As you read the passage, pay attention to context clues that suggest the word's meaning.

1. strewn
2. bills
3. furrowed
4. conscience
5. appreciation

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**Context Clues**

Using context clues from the sentences in the passage, underline the correct meaning of the word in boldface.

1) "they put boxes that were **strewn** around the garage floor on shelves"

- a. flattened or leveled    b. scattered; spread    c. stacked or ordered    d. empty; unfilled

2) "There were lots of one hundred dollar **bills**"

- a. bank notes; paper currency    b. invoices or statements    c. checks or drafts    d. gift cards

3) "Steve **furrowed** his brow"

- a. wiped; smoothed    b. slapped or hit    c. wrinkled or creased    d. climbed; ascended

4) "we try to find little ways to show our **appreciation**"

- a. thanks; gratitude    b. knowledge; learning    c. wealth or value    d. good side; image

5) "you not only have a clear **conscience**, you have the bat and glove"

- a. principles or moral sense    b. garage or storage unit    c. criminal history    d. agreement