“Hannah,” said Mom, “after breakfast I am going to help Nan pick apples from her trees. We sure could use your help.”


Then Hannah remembered that she already promised to play with her friend Eve. What was she going to do? She wanted to play with her friend. Suddenly she wasn’t so happy. She ate her cereal slowly.

“I don’t know if I can help, Mom,” Hannah said. “I already promised Eve I would go over and play with her this morning.”

“Oh,” said Mom. “Well, we’d like to have your help, but promises are promises.”

“Yes,” Hannah said. She plodded to the bathroom and brushed her teeth. Then she brushed her hair.

Mom stuck her head in the doorway. “Eve lives between Nan and us,” she said, “so maybe we can at least walk that far together.”

“Okay.” Hannah stuffed her feet into her tennis shoes, and the two set off down the country road. That’s when Hannah got an idea. “Mom, do you think—” Hannah told Mom her idea.

“Sounds great to me,” Mom said. “Ask Eve.”
So Hannah did. “Mom is going to help Nan pick apples,” Hannah told her friend when she opened the door. “And I was thinking... Wouldn’t it be fun if you and I helped?”

Eve pursed her lips. “Yes. It would! Wait while I ask my Dad.” A minute later she was back. “Dad says I can!”

Hannah clapped her hands happily.

“There is one thing, though,” Eve said.

Hannah sucked in her breath. Eve smiled. “Is it okay if Bob helps, too?” Bob was Eve’s younger, freckle-faced brother.”

“Of course,” Hannah cried. “Right, Mom?”

“Of course,” Hannah went on. “The more help the merrier, right?”

Nan gave a big chuckle when they arrived. “My goodness, have I a lot of helpers today. My sister, Lil, is also pitching in. She’ll be here any minute."

Hannah giggled. “Wow! I bet you never expected to have this much help, did you?”

“I certainly didn’t, ” Nan replied. “Now we’ll finish the apple picking faster than ever. And then we’ll still have plenty of time to bake fresh apple pies.”

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Happy Hannah

1) What was Mom’s reaction when Hannah said she had promised to go play with Eve?
   a) Mom said promises should be kept.
   b) Mom was angry at Hannah.
   c) Mom asked her to talk to Eve about it.
   d) Mom said Hannah could play with Eve.

2) Use these expressions in sentences.
   the more the merrier
   sounds great
   I bet

3) This story has something unusual about it. Can you figure out what it is? (Hint - names)

4) Write about the lessons you learn from the story.

5) How does Nan express her happiness about having such a big unexpected help?
Happy Hannah

1) What was Mom’s reaction when Hannah said she had promised to go play with Eve?
   a) Mom said promises should be kept.
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   d) Mom said Hannah could play with Eve.

2) Use these expressions in sentences.
   the more the merrier
   sounds great
   I bet

3) This story has something unusual about it. Can you figure out what it is?
   (Hint - names)
   The characters in the story are Hannah, Mom, Nan, Eve, Dad, Bob and Lil.
   All of these names or titles are spelled the same forward and backward.
   Words like these are called palindromes.

4) Write about the lessons you learn from the story.
   Helping others and keeping promises are the two lessons we learn from the story.

5) How does Nan express her happiness about having such a big unexpected help?
   Answers may vary.