“There’s nothing to do,” Marcus complained.

His older sister, Emma looked up from her desk. “I wish I could say the same. I have lots of hard homework, including this story I’m trying to write for English class.”

“I had homework, too,” Marcus said, “but it was easy.”

“No, not lucky me,” Marcus said. “Now I have nothing to do.”

“That’s still better than gobs of homework.” Emma muttered, continuing to write.

“No it isn’t.” Marcus scowled. “Do you want to know what I did after my homework?”

“What?” Emma asked, erasing a sentence.

“I cleaned my room and swept the patio.”

“That’s nice.”

Marcus scowled. “No it’s not. Now I don’t have any chores to do either.”

“Hmm.”

“Is that all you have to say?”

Emma stopped writing and frowned at her paper. “I’m sorry, Marcus. But I’m kind of busy. Maybe Mom or Dad can give you more chores.”
“Nope,” Marcus said. “They told me to spend the rest of the day having fun.”

“So why aren’t you?” asked Emma with a sigh.

“Because how can I have fun when there’s nothing to do?”

“Read a book.”

“I’ve read all my books.”

“Call a friend.”

“I did. Josh can’t come over, and Adam can’t either. They both have too much to do.”

“Maybe you can play with Chester.”

“I tried that. I threw his ball and told him to fetch, but all he did was roll over and wait for me to scratch his stomach. Then he fell asleep. Now he’s even snoring!”

“Hmm. Maybe you could… Wait! I’ve got a great new idea for my story!” Emma crumpled up her first paper, grabbed a new sheet and began writing quickly.

“It’s not fair you have something to do and I don’t,” Marcus said.

“Even TV was boring. I turned it on, but the good cartoons were over.”

“Good,” Emma said. “Real good.”

“What do you mean good?” Marcus said. “That’s not good. I even tried shooting hoops outside, but I couldn’t make anything but lay-ups. And now… Why are you grinning at me?”
Emma set her pencil down. “Because you’ve done an awful lot for someone with nothing to do.”

“I have?”

“Sure. You did homework, cleaned your room, swept the patio, phoned your friends, tried to play with Chester, shot hoops and more.”

Marcus thought a moment. “You’re right. I did do lots of stuff. And now I’m doing something else. I’m talking to you.”

“You sure are,” Emma agreed. “At first, you were driving me nuts. But then I got my idea. You could be my story for English. Your day of having nothing to do is much better than the story I was writing before.”

“Really?”

“Yep.”

“Wow!” Marcus smiled. “I think I want to write a story, too. Then I will have something to do until lunch.”

And Marcus did just that.
Nothing To Do

1) The word ‘awake’ is formed by adding ‘a’ to wake. Write two more similar words.

   

2) What are the chores that Marcus actually does?

   

3) What is the story about?

   

4) How did talking to Marcus actually help Emma?

   

5) Attempt a brief description of Marcus’ character; focus on his feeling that having nothing to do can be quite hard to deal with.

   

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Nothing To Do

1) The word ‘awake’ is formed by adding ‘a’ to wake. Write two more similar words.
   asleep, ablaze

2) What are the chores that Marcus actually does?
   Marcus does his homework, cleans his room, sweeps the patio, phones his friends, tries to play with Chester and shoots hoops.

3) What is the story about?
   The story is about Marcus, who thinks he has nothing to do.

4) How did talking to Marcus actually help Emma?
   Emma got a better idea for her story by listening to Marcus. She decided to write about Marcus’ day of having nothing to do.

5) Attempt a brief description of Marcus’ character; focus on his feeling that having nothing to do can be quite hard to deal with.
   Answers may vary.