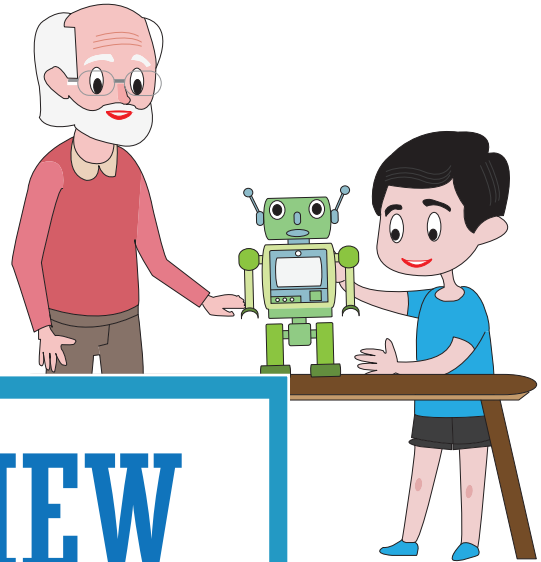


Building A Class Project

by Katie Clark

Grayson sat alone on the bus ride home from school. He didn't want to talk to his friends or anybody else. They were all discussing their class projects for the weekend. They were excited, and they didn't understand why he wasn't excited. He wasn't going to help either.



Grayson's cheeks turned red with his lack of excitement. How could he help them? Grayson's dad never wanted to talk to him.

When the bus stopped, Grayson took his backpack on the floor.

"Grayson?" Grandpa

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thought about his parents. He thought their parents would be angry all the time, and

he got home before his dad. He had to drop his

Grayson stopped before he closed his bedroom door. He didn't want to hurt Grandpa's feelings so he had better answer. "Yes, Grandpa, it's me."

Grandpa Higgins came from the kitchen carrying a sandwich. "How was school today?" he asked as he took a bite.

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Grayson shrugged. "It was okay, I guess."

"You don't sound too convincing."

Should Grayson tell Grandpa the truth? What could it hurt? He quickly explained how they had been assigned a class project for the weekend. Each student needed to ask a grown up for help, and together they would build something. The students needed to make a report to explain how their projects had gone.

Grandpa listened.

"Why does it have you?"

Grayson felt his heart

beat. "I don't have anyone to help me."

Grandpa raised his eyebrows.

Grayson froze. "I can't build a project with me, Grandpa?"

"Sure, I would," Grandpa said. "Just let me finish this sandwich."

Grayson's heart seemed so light he thought it would float away. Maybe this project wasn't so bad, after all.

He raced to his backpack and unzipped it, then he retrieved his assignment paper. When Grandpa finished eating, they sat at the table and made a list of ideas. They settled on building a cardboard robot from old cereal and pasta boxes from the

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Grayson finished.

se I don't have

ked. "Chopped liver?"

ould a project with

chen. "Just let me

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kitchen. They used glue, staples, and tape. Grandpa even found a box of eyeball stickers.

When they finished, the kitchen table was a mess. Debris littered the entire surface, but Grayson couldn't stop smiling.

"What do you think?" Grandpa asked.

Grayson looked at their misshapen robot. "I think it's the best robot I ever built.

Now I have to write

He grabbed the

paused. He ran to

Grandpa's side and h

Grandpa. I had a lot of fun."

Grandpa squeed

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our report. Maybe next

time we can build so

Grayson smiled

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Building A Class Project

1) Why wasn't Grayson excited about the school project?

2) Grayson was upset but he stopped to answer Grandpa. What does this tell you about Grayson?

3) 'What am I, Chop
Why does Grand

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What does it mean?

4) What does the li
away!' mean?

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ight it would float

5) How do you think Grayson will do at school in the coming days?
