

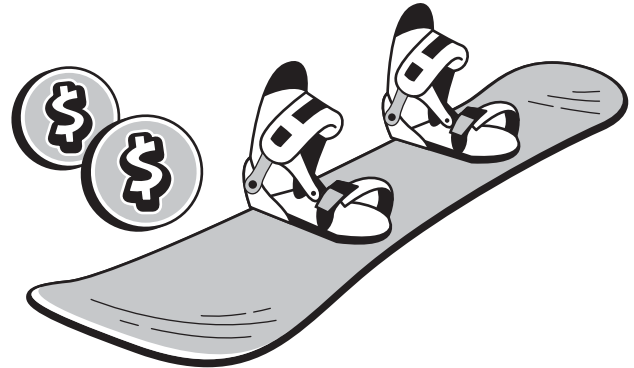
**A1**

Grades 3-5

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# A Tale of Two Brothers

This is the story of two brothers. Is it a true story? Well, I'm not going to tell you that, you'll have to listen to the whole story and decide for yourself. Now, these two brothers, Kyle and Todd, weren't just regular brothers, they were twins. But you'd never know it.



Todd was tall, Kyle was short. Todd had curly hair, Kyle's was straight. Todd loved sports, Kyle loved music. Todd was quiet, Kyle talked all the time. Todd was messy, Kyle was neat. And so on and so on and so on. In fact, these two brothers were so different their parents didn't call them "our twins," they called them "our opposites!"

Most of the time, Kyle and Todd got along quite well, even though they were opposites. But there came a time when each decided he wanted a new snowboard. One thing they both loved was snowboarding. Their parents decided they could have new snowboards, but they had to save enough money to pay for half the cost. Their parents knew that both boys would be more responsible in caring for a new snowboard if they had a hand in helping to pay for it. Plus, having kids is expensive—and twins are doubly expensive!

So both boys agreed they would save their money to buy the new snowboards. Kyle worked hard cutting lawns and helping some elderly neighbors on his street. He wasn't paid a lot of money, but he saved every penny he made. He was tempted to buy some other things he wanted, like CD's, video games, pizzas, and such, but he never did.

Todd worked at an ice cream store. He made more money than Kyle so he thought it would be okay to spend some. If Todd saw a new CD he wanted, he bought it. If Todd's friends asked him to go out for pizza, he went. If Todd heard of a new Xbox game, he had to have it. He would put a few dollars in his bank each time he got paid, but he had a hard time not spending it all right away. Todd's money didn't add up very fast, and as you probably know, snowboards aren't cheap.

When the time came to pick out the new snowboards, Kyle had his money saved and ready to go. In fact, he actually managed to save more than he needed so he could buy some new goggles too.

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Todd however, didn't have nearly enough money for his new snowboard. He tried begging his parents for more money. Nope, didn't work. He tried throwing a fit for more money. Nope, didn't work. He tried sulking in his room for two days. Nope, didn't work. I forgot to tell you this, but his parents were both teachers, and everyone knows teachers are tough!

So, that winter, can you guess who went speeding down the slopes on his brand new snowboard? And can you guess who had to make do with his old snowboard (which was banged up a bit and didn't go nearly as fast)? Right, Kyle did! You got it!

Saving money is hard. There are always lots of temptations around that we want to spend our money on. It's easy to spend money on lots of little things; it's much more difficult to save money for something we really want. But saving money is important. Not just so you can buy big things, but so you have money for something you might really need (especially when you get older and you have to pay for everything yourself!).

Hopefully, Todd learned a valuable lesson. Did you? What do you think, is this a true story?