

## Courtney's First Job

Courtney and her friends were riding their bikes home from school. Everyone was talking about the new *Star Wars* movie that was coming out soon. They couldn't wait to go see it.

"We should definitely go opening night," said Jay. "Is everyone free? I'll get tickets."

"In!" Nikki and Courtney replied.

As soon as she got home, Courtney ran upstairs to her room to check her money jar. She kept all her money in the jar – including what she received for her birthday three weeks ago from her grandparents. She was hoping she still had some left, but her heart fell when she opened the money jar. There was only \$2.00 and some change left - not enough to see a movie. She decided to ask her mom for the rest.

As soon as she heard her mom home from work, Courtney ran downstairs.

"Mom? Can I ask a favor?"

"Sure, honey. What is it?"

"Can I have some money to see Star Wars with Nikki and Jay? Please?"

Her mom paused. "What happened to all your birthday money?"

"I spent it."

"Already?? On what?!"

"Well, I went to dinner with friends, and then I saw a new video game I had to -"

"Stop right there. There is no reason why you should already be out of money. It's time for you to realize how much work goes into having money. You're going to need to get a job. I won't be giving you any more money for anything you do not need."

"What? But, Mom -"



“If you want money to do things with your friends, you’re going to have to start earning it. I’d start looking for a job if I were you.”

Courtney sighed. She could tell her mom was serious. The only way she was going to see that movie was if she got a job.

She climbed the stairs to her bedroom and started looking online at part time jobs. She loved dogs, so she thought working as a dog walker would be okay. But when she looked closer, she learned most people needed their dogs walked in the middle of the day when she was at school, so that wouldn’t work. Same went for being a nanny. She finally came across a job at the grocery store for night and weekend shifts. Her friend Nikki worked there and seemed to like it. But the job only paid \$8.25 an hour, which did not seem like much money.

“Mom, the only job I found that works with school pays \$8.25 an hour. What am I going to be able to do with that? It’s not enough. I’d have to work a whole shift just to be able to afford to go to the movies once!”

“\$8.25? That’s way more than I made at my first job. I made \$1.40 per hour.”

“What?! But you can’t buy anything with that!”

“Things weren’t as expensive back then. Even your brother made less than \$8.25 a few years ago. If you really want to be shocked, you should call your grandfather.”

Courtney could not believe it. So, she started calling. She started with her brother Mike who was away at college. He had only made \$7.75 per hour as a lifeguard. Mike reminded her that even though it was recent, things were just a little bit cheaper a couple years ago.

She was shocked when she called her grandfather. He had only made \$0.40 an hour! Courtney could not understand how he was able to feed her mom and her three aunts on that. But, again, Grandpa reminded her that goods were a lot less back in the 1940’s than they are today.

Courtney sat and thought about it. While \$8.25 still didn’t seem like a lot to her, she knew she was going to need the job if she wanted to go see *Star Wars*. The next day, she went to the grocery store to apply for the job, and she earned her first paycheck right in time to see movie with her friends.