

The Lesson

(Read to learn how the author learned his lesson.)

- 1 "Jon, pick up your clothes," my mother said. "Pick them up, or you can't go to Bill's after school." My mother always wants me to clean my room. "Put your books away, and pick up your clothes," she says.
- 2 I didn't pick up my clothes because Bill and I had plans to work in Mr. Dill's yard. We had been mowing lawns all week. After today we would have enough money to go to the movie on Saturday.
- 3 Bill and I mowed Mr. Dill's yard, raked leaves, and swept his sidewalk. Later I was so tired that I ate supper, did my homework, and went right to bed. My mother repeated irritably, "Don't forget to hang up your clothes."
- 4 "She never quits bugging me," I thought as I dropped my clothes on the floor. "I'll hang them up later. I'm just too tired now," I reasoned to myself.
- 5 The next morning, I reached for my clothes on the floor and tugged on my jeans. "Ouch, what was that?" I yelled. Something had stung me, and it really hurt! I quickly tore off my jeans. I saw a scorpion crawl out of my jeans. The sting on my leg was turning as red as a beet. "Wow, that hurts!" I screamed out loud. To myself I said, "I think that from now on I will hang up my clothes. I've learned my lesson!"

