



Eva Grayzel

Motivational Storyteller

Work Smarter Not Harder

Adapted by Eva Grayzel

Two woodcutters challenged each other to a chopping contest. Whomever could chop the most wood from sunrise to sunset would be the winner. Joe was built like an NFL tackle. Fred was tall and lanky. Joe knew he would win, hands down.

The men began at sunrise and chopped wood with great fury. Every couple of hours, Joe could see his opponent sit down. He cracked a smile with a smug expression. Joe never remembered working so hard in his entire life. He could hardly wait to claim his victory.

At sunset, a crowd gathered to witness the results. To everyone's surprise, especially Joe's, Fred's pile was clearly larger! Joe claimed foul play. He knew he worked much harder and longer than Fred.

Fred defended himself, "You thought I was sitting down to take a rest. I only sat down to sharpen my axe."

Discussion Topics:

- What 'tools' can you sharpen?
- Strive to add another tool (storytelling) to strengthen your skill set
- Use all the tools available to produce superior results.

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INTRODUCTION TO THE STORY

There is something magical in a great story; imaginations are exercised, hearts are stirred, and new thinking emerges. This story is designed to be a quick, easy read with a valuable message, providing readers a motivational lift.

- Positively influence your day by treating yourself to an uplifting message.
- Share this story with co-workers. Discuss and bond with your team over core values.
- Read this story to children at bedtime or in a car to promote healthy communication.

GENERATE NEW THINKING AND INITIATE DIALOGUE BY ASKING THESE QUESTIONS:

What's the lesson to be learned?

How do you see yourself in the story?

If you could change anything in the story, what would it be?

How will this narrative change what you do or think?

Who would you share the story with and why?

AFTER READING THE STORY WITH CHILDREN, TRY THESE FUN ACTIVITIES:

Role-play/act out the story. Include simple props (hats, scarves).

Reword the core message of the story in rhyme.

Pick a holiday or a birthday and make a tradition of sharing a story.

Ask an older relative for personal story related to the message. Start a collection of family stories.

Record any personal stories that arise from these family activities.

EVERYONE HAS A STORY TO TELL: WHAT'S YOURS? SHARE AND CREATE CONNECTIONS

Who influenced your life and how?

What is your love story?

What is your greatest fear?

Who would you like to forgive or receive forgiveness from?

What would you do differently with a second chance?

ABOUT EVA GRAYZEL: SPEAKER, SURVIVOR, STORYTELLER

I call myself a Motivational Storyteller because every story I share, whether on a big stage or in a small group, is thoughtfully crafted to educate, entertain and inspire audiences.

This is just one of many stories available to you on EvaGrayzel.com. I would love to hear how you used the story and if it facilitated communication. If you are looking for a story on a particular subject, don't hesitate to ask.

Happy Storytelling!

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