

Name : ..... Class : .....

MARK : .....

### A bobbin-boy who became a millionaire

Here are parts of the first chapter of the Gospel of Wealth, an autobiography written by Andrew Carnegie ( 1835-1919), a self-made American millionaire.

The first serious lesson of my life came to me one day when my father had taken in the last of his work to the merchant, and returned to our little home greatly distressed because there was no more work for **him** to do. I was then just about ten years of age, but the lesson burnt into my heart, and I resolved then that the wolf of poverty should be driven from our door some day, if I could do it.

The question of selling the old looms and immigrating to the United States came up in the family council, and I heard it discussed day in day out. We finally resolved to join relatives already in Pittsburgh.

On arriving in Allegheny City, (there were four of us: father, mother, my younger brother and myself), my father entered a cotton factory. I soon followed and served as a "bobbin-boy", and this is how I began my preparation for subsequent apprenticeship as a businessman. I received one dollar and twenty cents a week, and was then just about twelve years old.

I cannot tell how proud I was when I received my first week's earnings, one dollar and twenty cents made by myself and given to me because I had been of some use in the world! No longer entirely dependent upon my parents, but at last admitted to the family partnership as a contributing member and able to help **them**! I think this makes a man out of a boy sooner than almost anything else and a real man, too. It is everything to feel that you are useful.

I have had to deal with great sums. Many millions of dollars have since passed through my hands. But the genuine satisfaction I had from that one dollar and twenty cents outweighs my subsequent pleasure in money getting. It was the direct reward of honest, manual labor; it represented a week of very hard work.

For a lad of twelve to rise and breakfast every morning, except the blessed Sunday morning, and go into the street and find his way to the factory and begin to work while it was still dark outside, and not be released until after darkness, forty minutes only being allowed at noon, was a terrible task.

But I was young and had my dreams and something within always told me that this would not, could not and should not last. I should someday get into a better position. Besides this, I felt myself no longer a mere boy, but quite a little man, and this made me happy.

A change soon came, for a kid Scotsman, who knew some of our relatives, made bobbins, and took me into his factory before I was thirteen. Every member of my family was working hard, except, of course, my little brother who was then a child, and we were telling each other only all the bright things.

There was no servant in our family, and several dollars per week were earned by my mother by bending shoes after her daily work was done! Father was also hard at work in the factory. And could I complain?

My kind employer, John Hay, needed someone to make out bills and keep his accounts, and finding that I could write and read, **he** made me his only clerk, but still I had to work upstairs in the factory, for the clerking took but little time.

**COMPREHENSION (15 PTS)**

**{BASE ALL YOUR ANSWER ON THE TEXT}**

**A. Answer the following questions. (3 pts)**

- 1. What does Carnegie compare poverty to? .....
- 2. Did Carnegie feel proud when he got his first salary? Why? .....
- 3. Why couldn't he complain? .....

**B. Are the following statements True or False? Justify. (4 pts)**

- 1. Carnegie was determined to become rich. ....
- 2. His job was not easy. ....
- 3. He didn't work as a bobbin-boy for very long. ....
- 4. Carnegie's employer was rude and unfriendly. ....

**C. Which of the following had the strongest effect on Carnegie? (2 pts)**

- a- His father becoming jobless.
- b- His father's salary.
- c- His mother's daily work.

**D. Find in the text words that mean the same as : (3 pts)**

- 1. Depressed ( paragraph 2) .....
- 2. Utile ( paragraph 5) .....
- 3. Situation ( paragraph 8) .....

**E. What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (3 pts)**

- 1. Him .....
- 2. Them .....
- 3. He .....

**LANGUAGE (15 PTS)**

**I- Put the verbs in brackets in the correct form. Use the Past simple or Past continuous. (3 pts)**

1. We..... (talk) about him when he suddenly came in.
2. While I was talking, she ..... (interrupt) me.
3. He smiled at me in a friendly way when he ..... (see) me.

**II- Underline the correct words. (3 pts)**

1. I think it *will rain* / *is raining* heavily soon.
2. The sky is very black. It *will snow* / *is going to* snow.
3. I will be very happy when we *move* / *will move* from this damp flat.

**III- Complete the sentences with the correct prepositions. (2 pts)**

1. He was arrested ..... drug-related offenses.
2. Children over the age ..... 12 must pay the full fare.
3. You have been absent six times, according ..... our records.
4. I don't want to see Fred get ..... trouble with the judge.

**IV- Complete the second sentence so as it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Use the given words. (3 pts)**

1. The students don't understand the details of the story because it was too complicated. (*ins*)  
The students don't understand the ..... of the story because it was too complicated.
2. Alex can't wait to go to the concert on Saturday evening. (*forward*)  
Alex is really ..... to going the concert on Saturday evening.
3. Could you help me with these boxes, Mike? (*give*)  
Could you ..... with these boxes, Mike?

**V- Use the words in capitals at the end of each sentence to make words which fit in the spaces. (4 pts)**

1. She looked so ..... in those sundresses. *ELEGANCE*
2. He was the..... and builder of the archaeological park of Rome. *DESIGN*
3. He grew up to become a ..... man and one of our greatest orators. *FAME*
4. Actually, I'm a ....., working with local counsel on a pending case. *LAW*

**WRITING (10pts)**

**Write a description about a person you really admire.**

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