

Name: _____

Rosie's Great Idea

By Neal Levin

One crisp November afternoon, Rosie and Kate found Santa ringing a bell for donations for the Children's Hospital. Rosie peeled off her mitten and wiggled her hand into her pocket. She hoped to find a quarter to plunk into the charity bucket. But her pockets were empty as usual.

"Let's go in here." Kate tugged Rosie's elbow and led her into the toy store. "I'm

week. I want to cheer her up."

"How about one of these pillows with the smiley faces?" Rosie suggested.

"Oh, that's a great idea!" said Sally.

"I'll get my brother one too," said Kate.

"You already got your brother a teddy bear," Rosie said. "Why don't you drop some of your extra money into that



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Rosie's cheek. "What will you buy **your** brother?" she asked.

Rosie looked at the floor and shrugged. "I haven't decided." She wished she could afford something like the bear. She'd probably end up making him something like she did every year.

In the next aisle, they bumped into Sally. "I can't decide what to get my sister," Sally said. "She's getting her tonsils out next



"I wish I could drop something into that bucket," Rosie mumbled.

"I feel like everyone else is more generous than I am."

"You are generous," Kate said.

Rosie swung around. She hadn't thought anyone had heard her. "How can you say I'm generous? I can't

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even buy presents for my own family.”

“You’re generous with ideas,” Kate told her. “You always have great ideas. It was your idea for me to buy this teddy bear. And for Sally to buy that pillow. Even for me to give money to Santa.”

Rosie shrugged. She couldn’t see how sharing an idea would make a difference for sick children. It wasn’t like she was sharing something real. She couldn’t drop an idea into the bucket.

That evening, Rosie thought about what Kate had told her. Maybe Kate was right. Rosie always did have great

Rosie remembered the I.O.U. she’d dropped in the bucket. Suddenly another idea came to her. “People can use gift certificates to donate things to the hospital!”

“Yeah,” Joe said. “If I can do something to help my family, I can do something to help the hospital too.”

“Like reading a story,” Rosie suggested.

“Or starting a book drive,” Joe said.

Rosie and Joe spent the rest of the day making blank gift certificates. Then they painted a poster board. It said:



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For the rest of the day, Rosie tried to think of what idea she could donate to the hospital. She couldn’t come up with anything. The next day, she asked her friend Joe if he was giving anything to charity.

“I’m giving gifts to my family, but I really can’t afford much, let alone charity,” Joe said.

That’s a lot like me, Rosie thought. A lot like most kids, probably.

“Want to see what I’m giving my family?” He pulled some strips of colored paper from a folder. “Gift certificates. I’m making them myself. This one’s good for shoveling the driveway. It’s like an I.O.U.”

be ho-ho-happier.”

One mom stopped by to take a look. “I could spend some time at the hospital.”

“We could make cookies,” said her daughter.

“I could get some friends together to sing carols,” said a boy.

The charity bucket filled up quickly. Colored strips of paper flowed out from the top. It was more beautiful than ever. It looked like a present itself! Rosie knew now that all the children in the hospital were going to have a great Christmas... all because of her great idea.

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1. What is one of the story's main ideas?
 - a. The more gifts you can give, the better.
 - b. Everybody should always give money or gifts to charity.
 - c. Gifts and charity don't need to cost lots of money.
 - d. I.O.U.s are the best kind of gift for friends or charity.
2. What does *I.O.U.* stand for? _____
3. At the end, why is colored paper flowing out of the bucket?

A cartoon illustration of a superhero with brown hair, wearing a blue suit with a red cape and a shield-shaped emblem on his chest. He is flying through a blue sky with white clouds, leaving a white trail behind him.

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5. List the five gift certificate ideas suggested to help the hospital.

6. Who calls Rosie generous? _____

Use at least **two** examples from the story that show it is true.

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Rosie's Great Idea

Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the story. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. c _ _ r _ _ l s

clue: songs, often joyful

2. _ _ r _ _ s p

clue: sharply cold



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6. c h _ _ r _ _ t _ _

clue: helpfulness toward those in need

7. _ _ _ r t i f _ _ _ a t e s

clue: papers carrying a statement, such as of owing something

8. _ _ s _ _ _ l

clue: common; normal; like always

9. _ _ f _ _ _ r d

clue: bear the cost of; have money for

10. g _ _ n _ _ r _ _ _ s

clue: freely, frequently giving or sharing

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Rosie's Great Idea



In the story, "Rosie's Great Idea," you read about a girl who came up with an idea for helping others that did not cost her a lot of money. What are some ways you could help others without spending a lot of money? Think about ways that help friends, family, your school, or your community. Describe your ideas and how they would be helpful.



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ANSWER KEY

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donate money even when she doesn't have it. She also spends days coming

up with an idea to help the children's hospital.

ANSWER KEY



Rosie's Great Idea

Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the story. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. c a r o l s

carols

clue: songs, often joyful

2. c r i s p

crisp

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10. g e n e r o u s

generous

clue: freely, frequently giving or sharing