

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 going to buy my brother a teddy bear jigsaw puzzle."

"But Sammy's only two. He can't do puzzles. Get him a real teddy bear," Rosie said.

"That's a great idea!" Kate picked out the cutest teddy bear. She pressed it against 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

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 charity bucket outside?" She couldn't help thinking about all those children in the hospital. They would be missing Christmas at home.

When they went outside, Kate stuffed some dollars into Santa's bucket. Sally did the same.

"Ho, ho, ho." Santa smiled.

"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 ideas.

The next afternoon, Rosie went back to see Santa. She scribbled on a piece of paper: ***I Owe You... an idea!***

She folded her I.O.U. and dropped it in the bucket.

“Ho, ho, ho!” Santa smiled.

Rosie smiled back.

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.”

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: ***Help the Children’s Hospital. Give Whatever You Can.***

The next afternoon, Rosie and Joe walked up to Santa. They explained what they were doing. They asked if they could set up a table next to him outside the toy store.

“Of course,” Santa replied. “I couldn’t 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?

4. Which best describes the story's main setting?

- a. Inside and outside a toy store in November.
- b. Nearby a children's hospital during the Christmas season.
- c. At Rosie's house leading up to Christmas Day.
- d. In a large city on a cold November afternoon.

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
3. d o _ _ _ i o n _ _ _____
clue: things given away freely, especially to help others
4. s _ _ g _ _ _ s t _ _ d _____
clue: said as a possibility
5. t o _ _ s _ _ _ s _____
clue: bumps on both sides of the throat
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.

[illegible]

ANSWER KEY

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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?

I owe you

3. At the end, why is colored paper flowing out of the bucket?

Lots of people donated gift certificates for the children's hospital.

4. Which best describes the story's main setting?

- a. Inside and outside a toy store in November.**
- b. Nearby a children's hospital during the Christmas season.
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5. List the five gift certificate ideas suggested to help the hospital.

reading a story, starting a book drive, spending time there, making cookies,

singing carols

6. Who calls Rosie generous?

Kate

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

Answers may vary. An example is: Rosie is generous because she tries to

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 <u>a</u> r <u>o</u> l s | <u>carols</u> |
| clue: songs, often joyful | |
| 2. <u>c</u> r <u>i</u> s p | <u>crisp</u> |
| clue: sharply cold | |
| 3. d o <u>n</u> <u>a</u> <u>t</u> i o n <u>s</u> | <u>donations</u> |
| clue: things given away freely, especially to help others | |
| 4. s <u>u</u> g <u>g</u> <u>e</u> s t <u>e</u> d | <u>suggested</u> |
| clue: said as a possibility | |
| 5. t o <u>n</u> s <u>i</u> <u>l</u> s | <u>tonsils</u> |
| clue: bumps on both sides of the throat | |
| 6. c h <u>a</u> r <u>i</u> t <u>y</u> | <u>charity</u> |
| clue: helpfulness toward those in need | |
| 7. <u>c</u> <u>e</u> r t i f <u>i</u> <u>c</u> a t e s | <u>certificates</u> |
| clue: papers carrying a statement, such as of owing something | |
| 8. <u>u</u> s <u>u</u> <u>a</u> l | <u>usual</u> |
| clue: common; normal; like always | |
| 9. <u>a</u> f <u>f</u> <u>o</u> r d | <u>afford</u> |
| clue: bear the cost of; have money for | |
| 10. g <u>e</u> n <u>e</u> r <u>o</u> <u>u</u> s | <u>generous</u> |
| clue: freely, frequently giving or sharing | |