

HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY

– by Safa (11)

It was a cold, dark and misty morning when the letter arrived. Ingrid was fast asleep so she was unaware of the tragedy that fell upon her family.

Mr and Mrs Greever were wide awake, sorting through bills in their living room. “Robin’s trousers are getting smaller,” Mrs Greever complained.

“They’re all right for a few weeks,” grumbled Mr Greever.

“Get the post, will you, John?” asked Mrs Greever.

Mr Greever, looking very moody, went to get the post. He came back looking shocked. “What’s wrong?” asked Mrs Greever, looking concerned.

“They’re letting me go!” whispered Mr Greever.

“Who’s letting you go?” asked Mrs Greever, puzzled.

“The agency!” he said, holding up a cheque. They had sent him a month’s salary in the post.

Mrs Greever was terrified. What were they going to do about getting money to live? Mr Greever was speechless. Suddenly, Ingrid and her little brother, Robin, came downstairs, rubbing their eyes. Seeing their parents’ frightened faces, Ingrid asked what was wrong. Mrs Greever sadly explained that they had just received some bad news. She told them that Dad had lost his job. It was Ingrid’s turn to be speechless.

The next few weeks flew by and Ingrid’s dad found a job as a cleaner. The family was short of money so Ingrid, despite the protests of her parents, sold her roller skates, which had been given to her as a birthday present. She gave the money to her parents. However, they said that Ingrid should keep half to buy herself a reward.

On the way to the shop, Ingrid saw a man wearing a suit, drop his wallet. She was about to shout out but the man had already disappeared around the corner. She picked up the wallet and looked inside. There was about £50 in it. Ingrid began to think how much that would help her family; Robin would get his new trousers, Mum wouldn't have to quit her classes and they would have enough to eat!

Then she remembered something that her mum had told her a long time ago. "No matter how bad it gets, always remember that there's someone who has it worse than you!" This man could have money problems himself!

Ingrid found his phone number in the wallet and called him. It turned out that he did have money problems – he had too much money! He was grateful and rewarded Ingrid with £600. Ingrid learnt a valuable lesson: Honesty is the Best Policy!