

## Even Circuses Are Hard Work

Five seconds till summer... Four... Three.... Two.... One!!! Owens' classroom burst into excitement, their teacher Ms Cassandra didn't even try calming them down, she just glanced around the room shaking her head in disapproval. She also had a slight smile on her face. Owen packed up his books and left the still excited classroom. He thought he would have a permanent ear ache. Not long after his friend Alex came out and caught up to him. "Hey," he said, "the teacher wants to see you." Owen wasn't surprised. He was tall for his age with light brown hair and blue eyes and very good at sports, but not so good at academics. He knew he had failed in two subjects, math and history. He trudged back to the classroom. All the students had left and it was just him and Ms. Cassandra. "So," said the teacher, "you have to have noticed that your grades in math and history are not where they should be? Higher grades in your other subjects brought your overall scores up." Owen nodded, "so why did you want to talk to me?" he asked quietly. "I wanted to speak with you because I wondered if you thought about doing something outside of school to improve your grades?" said Ms. Cassandra. "You mean like summer school!!?" Owen shouted as anger flashed through his eyes. Ms. Cassandra looked startled but replied calmly, "there is a spot at Camp Lesson1Fun that might help you." Owen left the room he didn't know anything about Camp Lesson1Fun but he knew he had to go home and tell his parents about Ms Cassandra's "crazy idea" at least it wasn't summer school or he hoped it wasn't. When he got home his parents loved the idea of a camp that could help him improve his grades. Owen wasn't surprised but he was shocked that he had to leave the very next day. He packed that night and the bus was there to pick him up at 11:00 am the next morning. They drove for three hours to what seemed like the middle of nowhere. Owen was starving; he hadn't eaten lunch before he left and it had to be dinnertime by now. When he arrived at the camp he had no idea what to expect. He thought he would maybe have some food and explore his new surroundings, but instead two intimidating men met him at the bus and took him to a small room. They shut the door behind him and he didn't know what to do. Owen was so tired he sat on his bed to wait but instead fell fast asleep.

"Get up you lazy city boys!" was the next thing Owen heard. "Well this is a great start," he thought to himself. He opened his eyes and it was morning. He stood up and saw a pile of folded clothes and nothing else. He put them on and walked out the door. A line of about forty other boys were making their way to a small stage in the middle of a field. A thin man stood on the stage and started talking. Owen was only half listening because he was too focused on a giant pool next to the stage and his stomach was growling loudly. While the man was talking a bunch of trucks pulled up behind the kids. The trucks blocked their view but Owen could hear people working. Five minutes later the trucks pulled away to reveal what appeared to be a large handmade tent. When Owen turned back to the man on stage he saw that the man had put on a sparkly orange vest and top hat over his clothes. "Welcome to Lesson1Fun circus camp" the man yelled with a big smile on his face. "Oh no, what did I get myself into!" thought Owen. Camp Lesson1Fun was nothing that Owen thought it would be. It turns out the "ringmaster" Johnathan hated school when he was young and failed all his subjects. He had to go to the most boring summer school in his opinion and wanted to keep boys like him from suffering the same "fate." Johnathan didn't go to college; he barely finished middle school and ran away to

join the circus. He loved the circus so much he made his own camp and tricked parents and teachers into thinking it was a camp to help with academics. (He also made the camp free to make it even more enticing.) Owen was so happy at first and thought this was a great idea but as the week went on he realized how much work a circus can be. They had to perform to make money so they could buy food to eat. Owen tried the tightrope, trapeze, juggling, and even dressing up like a clown but he ended up cleaning up after animals most of the time. (It wasn't so bad because the circus only had two animals, a dog that could jump through hoops and a miniature pony.) By the end of the week Owen was exhausted, hungry, and ready to go home. He had learned that everything takes hard work. Johnathan may love the circus, but Owen now knew the importance of learning.

The end.