

## LITTLE STORIES FOR LITTLE PEOPLE

### JOSE'S ICE-CREAM CONE

ADAPTED BY PANCITA FLORES

"JUAN AND JOSE," said Mother, "I want you to go to the store for me. Here is a peso. I want a loaf of bread and a can of milk. You will have some money left. You may each have five centavos to spend. Now be careful—be sure that you don't lose the money."

"We'll be careful," answered the boys.

Soon they were hurrying down the street toward the store.

"I know what I'm going to buy with my five centavos," decided Juan. "I'm going to buy a little balloon. Pedro had one today—a little red one with pictures on it."

"I don't want a little balloon. I want an ice-cream cone," said Jose.

"But an ice-cream cone costs ten centavos," answered Juan.

"I know it," agreed Jose, looking very sad, "but I do want one so much."

"I want one, too," said Juan, "but never mind. Let's get small balloons, and maybe tomorrow Mother will buy us each an ice-cream cone."

That didn't make Jose feel a bit happier. "I want my ice-cream cone now," he said. "I don't want to wait until tomorrow. Maybe Mother wouldn't mind if we took five centavos."

Juan shook his head hard. "No, you can't do that. Mother wouldn't like it. We have to take the rest of the money home with us."

"I don't care," said Jose. "I want an ice-cream cone, and I'm going to have one, too. You can tell Mother you lost the money."

"Oh, dear!" thought Juan, looking very worried. "That wouldn't be right,

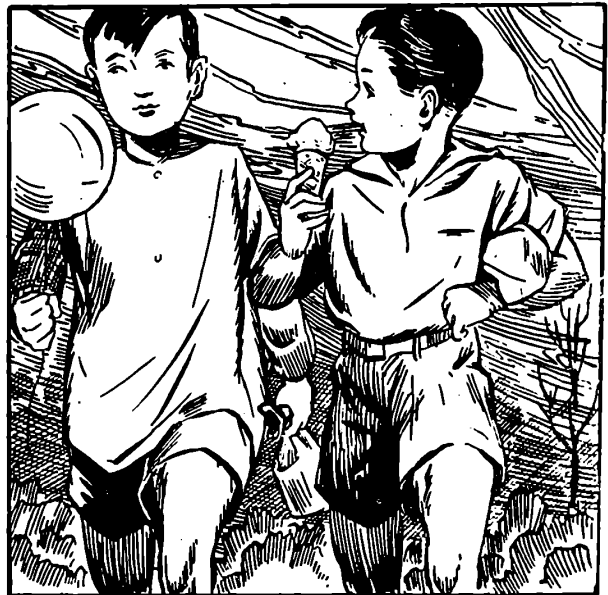
but I don't know what I can do about it." He thought very hard for a little while.

"I guess I don't want an ice-cream cone after all," decided Juan at last. "Here," he added, holding out the peso, "you take the money."

Jose looked at the peso wonderingly. "But why do you want me to take it?" he asked. "Why don't you just wait and give me five centavos after we buy the things at the store?"

"No," said Juan. "You take the money now. You can give me my five centavos after you buy the loaf of bread and the can of milk. Then you can tell Mother that you lost the money yourself. I don't want to tell her."

"All right," Jose answered, taking the peso. "I guess you'll be sorry, Juan, when I eat my cone."



*Juan tried not to feel bad as he watched Jose eating the ice-cream cone.*

When the boys reached the store, Jose said to the clerk, "I want a loaf of bread and a can of milk, please."

Jose gave the clerk the peso. Then he held out his hand for the change, which the clerk gave him.

"Here's five centavos for you, Juan, and here's ten centavos for me."

Soon the boys were on their way home. Juan tried not to feel bad as he watched his brother eating the ice-cream cone. He blew his balloon as hard as he could, and tried to forget about the ice-cream.

Mother was waiting on the upstairs porch for the two boys.

"Hurry, Juan and Jose," she called. "I have a surprise for you."

"What is it?" asked the boys.

"Father is going to take us down to the swimming pool in the park this afternoon. We'll take our supper along and have a picnic. Now give me the bread and the can of milk and the change," she said, holding out her hand.

Poor Jose! Slowly he handed Mother the change.

"But where is the rest of it?" asked Mother, looking puzzled.

Jose hung his head.

"I—I—I lost it," he said.

"Don't feel so bad," answered Mother kindly. "You were careless to lose the money, but even grown-up people are careless sometimes."

Jose felt worse than ever, because Mother was so kind to him.

"I think I'd better tell Mother I spent the other five centavos," he decided. So he took a deep breath and then said, "I didn't lose the money, Mother. I bought an ice-cream cone."

"I'm sorry you spent my money, Jose. I don't like boys who take things that do not belong to them. That isn't honest,

is it?"

Jose shook his head. "I'm sorry, Mother," he said. "I won't ever do it again."

"I'm sure you won't," answered Mother, kindly. "But how about you, Juan?" she asked.

Juan held up his balloon for Mother to see. "I bought this," he said happily. "You said we could each have five centavos to spend."

"Yes," answered Mother, "and I am glad I have one boy that I can trust. Now hurry, Juan, and get ready to go to the park."

"But can't I go?" asked Jose.

"I don't know," Mother answered slowly. "I think it would be fair if you had to stay at home, don't you?"

"Yes," agreed Jose sadly.

"I tell you what we'll do," decided Mother. "As long as you were brave enough to tell me what really happened to the missing money, you may go to the park with us. But you must promise me that you'll never again take anything that doesn't belong to you."

"I promise," said Jose. "And Mother, may I use ten centavos of my bank money to buy Juan an ice-cream cone?"

"I think that's a fine idea," answered Mother. "I'm glad that I have two honest boys to take to the park instead of one."

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#### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

1. Did you like this story? Why?
2. What lesson did you learn from this story?
3. What two wrong deeds did Jose do?
4. What good deed did he finally do?
5. Do you think Jose was sorry because

(Please turn to page 181.)