The Responsibility of a Being a Teenager

Joe cried loudly as his mother leaves the house for a business trip abroad. Left in charge was Jane, a smart, caring sister. Jane and Joe was home alone for 7 days, their father died a few years ago on a car accident. Jane is responsible to take care of his 8 year old brother, cooking breakfast, dropping her brother to elementary school and then she has to go to high school a few blocks away. Jane is usually a good student, she listens in class, raises her hands, does her work and helps others. Jane is an independent person, she doesn’t need to be told what to do because she does it without anyone telling her.

A few days have passed since her mother left her in charge of the house and her brother. For the past few days, there have been no problem with anything, until the day her mother comes back.

Jane was helping her classmates understanding algebra in math. One of her classmate said, “You’re so smart and nice Jane, you’ve helped us understand math every time we have problems.”

Jane replied, “I really don’t mind helping a few friends, it also helps me when I teach you guys.”

“Are you doing something today after school?” her classmate asked.

“Not that I can think of”, Jane said.

“You should come with us, we have a party at my house tonight.” Her classmate said.

“Sure, I’ll come by later.” Jane replied.

Jane forgot that she had to pick up her brother from his school. After school, Jane walked with her classmate to her house for the party, still not realizing that she had forgotten to pick up his brother. At the party, Jane danced, sing, ate and danced again and completely forgetting that she hasn’t picked up her brother and that her mother is coming home tonight.

At the elementary school, Joe waited, and waited for hours, not knowing that his sister forgot to pick him up. Joe sat on the bench, just outside of his school, he saw his friends and many other kids walk by, but none of them was his sister.

Leah, Joe and Jane’s mother passed by Joe’s elementary on a taxi. She noticed a little boy with a blue backpack sitting on the bench. Quickly realizing that it was her son, Leah stopped the driver on the side of the road, opened the door and ran to her son. “Why are you still here?”, Leah asked. “Jane hasn’t come by to pick me up yet.” Joe replied. “But it’s already too late, why hasn’t she picked you up yet?” Leah asked and Joe replied, “I don’t know”

As soon as Leah and Joe got back to their house, Leah was disappointed. She dialed Jane’s phone and sat in silence while the phone rings. After calling Jane 3 times, she finally answered. Jane was surprised to hear her mother from the phone and more importantly, angry. Leah asked Jane why she didn’t pick up Joe at his school, and then, Jane realized that she had forgotten to pick up her brother and that her mother was coming home this evening. Jane rushed back to her house and as soon as she entered the front door, her mother was waiting on the couch with face that Jane had never seen before.

“Where were you? And why didn’t you pick up your brother?” Leah asked in an angry voice.

Jane couldn’t lie to her mother.

“I was at a friends’ house party”, Jane answered.

“I left you responsible for your brother, you’re 18 years old and you’re supposed to be an independent woman. You should know to take care of your young brother….” Leah ranted for a several minutes.

“I knew I was responsible for him and I am truly sorry. It won’t happen again.” Jane apologized.

Leah didn’t want any drama and forgave Jane. After that, Jane also apologized to Joe.