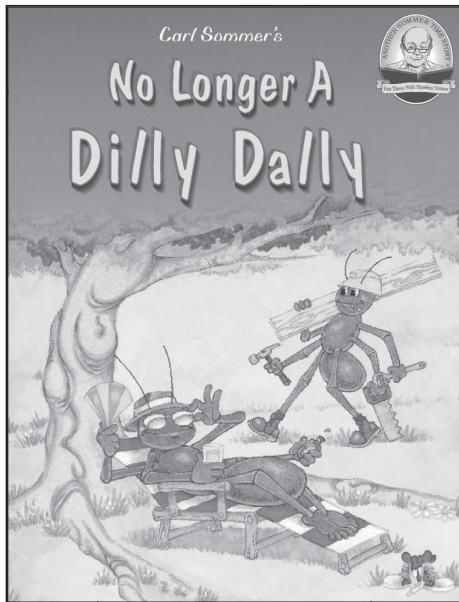


Character Education Lessons

Carl Sommer

12. No Longer a Dilly Dally



about the book

Ants have to work hard during the summer to build their homes and gather food for the winter, but the Dilly Dally family have a different tradition: they always play first. If they have any time, then they work a little.

The Family Work Play ants, however, first build their house and gather their food, then they relax and have fun. So they built a strong house and had lots of food for the coming winter.

When the long, cold winter came, the Dilly Dally family had a tough time finding food and keeping warm. However, they learned an important lesson, and changed their name to Family Work First.

This delightful and inspiring book by Carl Sommer shows the importance of diligence, responsibility, and having a proper work ethic. Children will learn that by working first and playing later, it will bring much greater happiness.

Main Virtues

Diligence/Responsibility/Proper Work Ethic

Other Virtues

Appreciation, Caring, Cleanliness, Compassion, Cooperation, Dignity of Labor, Fairness, Friendship, Initiative, Obedience to Parents, Perseverance, Self-Discipline, and Self-Reliance

Contents

● Laziness Brings Poverty	● Helping The Poor
● Diligence and Responsibility	● Proper Work Ethic Brings Success
● Listening to Friends	● How to Fail
● Warning People of Their Evil Ways	● How to Succeed
● The Law of Sowing and Reaping	● Questions
● Helping Those Who Refuse to Work	

Laziness Brings Poverty

Papa Work Play immediately gathered his family together. “It takes a lot of hard work to build a new home. Let’s get started right away.”

Papa Dilly Dally immediately found a place to rest. “We have plenty of time to build a new home. Let’s rest first and have some fun.”

Papa Dilly Dally and his family were lazy—they didn’t like to work.

Diligence and Responsibility

Family Work Play went right to work. In their home it was early to bed and early to rise.

“We are Family Work Play!” Papa would say. “And that means we work first, then play. Every day we will have time to relax and play, but we must always do our work first.”

Family Work Play had the right attitude about work and play. They played and relaxed, but only after they did their work for the day. They were diligent and responsible. They learned how to balance work and play.

Listening to Friends

Every day as Family Work Play went to gather food, Family Dilly Dally would call out to them, “Come! Play ball with us.”

“We can’t play now,” the hard-working ants would say. “We must work first, then we can play.”

“Don’t be so foolish!” Family Dilly Dally would say. “Be like us! We play first, then we work.”

“Oh no! In our family, we work first.”

The children in Family Work Play were wise; they would not listen to the advice of their friends.

Warning People of Their Evil Ways

Mama Work Play felt sad for Family Dilly Dally. “We must warn our friends that unless they work first, things will be very hard for them when the cold winter comes.”

Mama Work Play went and warned Mama Dilly Dally, but Mama Dilly Dally did not listen to her warning.

The Law of Sowing and Reaping

Family Work Play had a warm, cozy home. They did not have to go out into the cold to find something to eat.

Family Dilly Dally did not prepare for winter, even when they were warned. Now they had to dig through ice and snow to find food. Every day was the same for Family Dilly Dally—searching and digging, digging and searching—and still their tummies were never quite full. Although they grumbled and complained, it did them no good.

Now it was all work...and no play. You reap what you sow.

Helping Those Who Refuse to Work

Family Dilly Dally was lazy and did not want to work. They were more interested in having lots of fun. Finally the time came when they had to work in order to get their food.

Then Papa Dilly Dally said, “I’ve got a great idea! I’ll ask Family Work Play for help. They have plenty of food.”

Mama Work Play felt sorry for them and thought that they should try to feed them, but Papa

Work Play said, “I feel sorry for them too. But if we feed them, they might never learn to work first. Besides, if they work very hard, they will find enough food—even if it gets icy cold.”

Papa Work Play was not cruel, for he knew that if they would work hard they could find enough food.

We should be careful to help the poor, but it is not wise to help those who are lazy.

Helping The Poor

Papa Dilly Dally did not want to help Family Dilly Dally because they were lazy. He knew that they could find enough food if they worked hard. However, we need to be very careful that we do not become hard-hearted. We should be kind and be eager to help the poor and needy.

Proper Work Ethic Brings Success

Papa Dilly Dally had learned his lesson. Papa Dilly Dally made a wise choice by changing his name from Family Dilly Dally to Family Work First. Having the proper work ethic brings success.

How to Fail

Always play first
Work only when there is time
Don't do your homework
Don't study or do the required lessons
Be late
Take off from school
Don't listen to your parents or teachers
Do whatever your friends are doing
Always complain when there is work to do
Think only about yourself

How to Succeed

Work first then play
Make time for work
Do your homework
Study and do the required lessons
Be on time
Always be in school
Listen to your parents and teachers
Do what's right regardless what others are doing
Be a willing worker
Think about others

Questions

1. What were the names of the two families who decided to leave the city of ants?
The names of the two families were Family Work Play and Family Dilly Dally.
2. What did Papa Work Play say to his family when he gathered them together?

Papa Work Play said, "It takes lots of hard work to build a new home. Let's get started right away."

3. What did Papa Dilly Dally say to his family when he found a place to rest?

Papa Dilly Dally said, "We have plenty of time to build a new home. Let's rest first and have some fun."

B. Why did Papa Dilly Dally say, "We have plenty of time to build a new home. Let's rest first and have some fun"?

Papa Dilly Dally said this because he and his family were lazy. They did not like to work.

4. What kind of place did Family Work Play decide to look for?

Family Work Play decided to look for a place where they could find lots of food.

5. What kind of place did Family Dilly Dally decide to look for?

Family Dilly Dally decided to look for a place where they could have plenty of fun.

6. What was the rule in Family Work Play's home concerning bedtime?

In Family Work Play's home, it was early to bed and early to rise.

7. A. What did Papa say his name, Family Work Play, meant?

Papa said, "We are Family Work Play! And that means we work first, then play."

B. Why is "work first, then play" a good rule to have?

It is good to work first and then play because it helps us do the important things first. If we play first we may become so tired that we will not want to work.

Family Work Play had the right attitude about work and play. They had time to play and relax, but first they did their work.

8. What did Family Work Play do:

A. In the mornings?

They dug their basements.

B. In the afternoons?

They gathered food.

C. In the evenings?

They relaxed and played.

9. What did Family Work Play's house look like by late summer?

By late summer their house was almost finished, and their basement was nearly full.

10. What kind of house did Family Dilly Dally build?

Family Dilly Dally built a tiny house.

11. Family Dilly Dally wanted to build a nice, big home, but when did they plan to build it?

Family Dilly Dally planned to build it later.

They procrastinated—they put off doing the things they should. Wise individuals do not put off the things they should be doing.

12. What did Family Dilly Dally want to have lots of?

Family Dilly Dally wanted to have lots of fun.

13. What did Family Dilly Dally do in the evenings?

In the evenings Family Dilly Dally stayed up late watching their favorite TV shows.

14. Since Family Dilly Dally went to bed late, how long did they sleep?

Family Dilly Dally slept late.

15. Since Family Dilly Dally slept late, it was much too hot for them to work outside. So how did Family Dilly Dally begin their day?

Family Dilly Dally began their day relaxing and playing under the big shade tree.

16. When did Family Dilly Dally begin to gather their food?

Family Dilly Dally waited until the cool evenings to look for something to eat.

17. How much food would Family Dilly Dally gather in the evenings?

Family Dilly Dally gathered only enough food for the next day.

18. By the end of summer:

A. What was Family Dilly Dally's small house like?

Family Dilly Dally's small house was still unfinished.

B. How much food did Family Dilly Dally have for the coming winter?

Family Dilly Dally had no food stored for the winter.

C. How much fun did Family Work Play have?

Family Work Play had lots of fun.

19. What did the children of Family Dilly Dally say to Family Work Play as they went to work every day?

The children of family Dilly Dally would say, "Come! Play ball with us?"

20. What would the hard-working ants say when family Dilly Dally said, "Come! Play ball with us"?

The hard-working ants would say, "We can't play now. We must work first, then we can play."

21. What would the children of Family Dilly Dally say when they heard, "We can't play now. We must work first, then we can play?"

The children of Family Dilly Dally would say, "Don't be so foolish! Be like us! We play first, then we work?"

22. What would the children of Family Work Play say when they heard, "Don't be so foolish! Be like us! We play first, then we work"?

Family Work Play would say, "Oh no! In our family we work first."

The children in Family Work Play were wise; they wouldn't listen to the advice of their friends.

23. What did Mama Work Play say to her family because she felt sad for Family Dilly Dally?

Mama Work Play said, "We must warn our friends that unless they work first, things will be very hard

for them when the cold winter comes.”

24. What did Mama Work Play say to Mama Dilly Dally?

Mama Dilly Dally said, “I’ve noticed that you’re not preparing for the coming winter. It’s going to get very cold, and then it will be hard to find food.”

25. A. What did Mama Dilly Dally say when she was asked why she wasn’t preparing for winter?

Mama Dilly Dally said, “Oh, don’t worry about us. Our family just loves to play. There’s still plenty of time to get food for the winter. Anyway, thanks for coming.”

B. Why did Mama Dilly Dally not want to listen to Mama Work Play?

Mama Dilly Dally did not want to listen to Mama Work Play because she did not want to stop doing things that would keep her family from having so much fun.

26. Family Work Play’s basement was now completely filled with food, and they had finished building their house. Where did they go for after they packed some games and a basket full of food?

Family Work Play headed for the lake.

27. What would Family Work Play have more time to do since they were well prepared for winter?

Family Work Play would have much more time to relax and play.

28. What did Family Dilly Dally say when Papa Dilly Dally said, “Fall is here, and that means we must begin to get food for the winter”?

Family Dilly Dally said, “Oh nooooo...! It’s getting cold outside, and the food is far away!”

29. What did Family Dilly Dally have now as they began searching for food?

Now Family Dilly Dally had lots of work.

30. Where was Family Work Play during wintertime?

Family Work Play was in their warm, cozy home during wintertime.

31. What was every day like for Family Dilly Dally when it became bitter cold?

Every day it was the same—searching and digging, digging and searching—and still their tummies were never quite full.

32. What good did Family Dilly Dally’s grumbling and complaining do?

Family Dilly Dally’s grumbling and complaining did them no good. Now it was all work...and no play. There is the law of sowing and reaping. You reap what you sow.

33. What did Papa Dilly Dally say on how he could get food?

Papa Dilly Dally said, “I’ll ask Family Work Play for help. They have plenty of food.”

34. What did Papa Work Play say to Papa Dilly Dally when he asked him for food?

Papa Work Play said, “I’m sorry, but we don’t have enough food to feed both our families.”

35. Papa Work Play felt sorry for Family Dilly Dally. What did Papa Work Play say would happen if

they would feed Family Dilly Dally?

Papa Work Play said, "If we would feed them, they might never learn to work first. Besides, if they work very hard, they will find enough food—even if it gets icy cold."

Papa Work Play was not cruel, for he knew that if Family Dilly Dally worked hard they would find enough food. Family Dilly Dally was lazy and did not want to work; now they would have to suffer the consequence for their laziness. However, we need to be careful that we try to help those who are poor and needy.

36. What did Family Dilly Dally have to do every day in the middle of winter in order to get their food?

Family Dilly Dally had to trudge a long way through the deep snow to search for food.

37. What did Papa Dilly Dally say to his family when springtime arrived?

Papa Dilly Dally said, "I have something very important to say. I am no longer...a Dilly Dally."

38. What did Papa Dilly Dally say to his family as he put on a work hat?

Papa Dilly Dally said, "I'm going to have a new name! We were foolish for playing first, instead of working first."

39. What was the new name Papa Dilly Dally chose for his family?

Family Work Play's new name was, Family Work First.

Papa Dilly Dally had learned his lesson. Papa Dilly Dally made a wise choice by changing his name from Family Dilly Dally to Family Work First. Instead of playing first, now he would have his family work first. That's the path to success.

40. What did Family Work First immediately do?

Family Work First began building a home right next to Family Work Play.

41. What did Family Work First do?

A. In the mornings?

Family Work First dug their basement and built their home.

B. In the afternoons?

Family Work First gathered food.

C. In the evenings?

Family Work First relaxed and played.

42. What was best of all for Family Work First?

Best of all, from that day on they lived up to their new name—Family WORK FIRST!