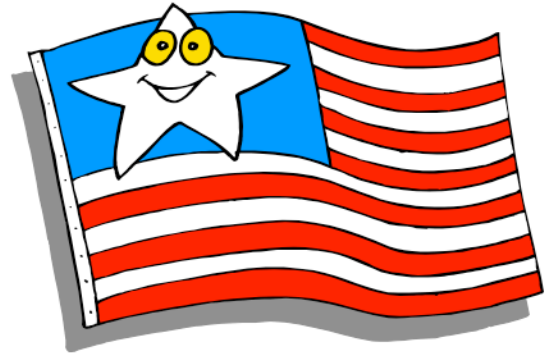


Memorial Day

Written By: Deborah Lynn



Tomorrow would be Memorial Day. Joshua was learning in Cub Scouts why this day was important. They learned about the brave men and women who fought in war so we could be free. Many died and others were badly hurt. He also learned about the flag and how to show respect for it. He even got to take down the flag and learned how to fold it correctly. Joshua loved the flag; whenever he touched it he felt near to his daddy. His own daddy was one of those brave men, fighting for freedom in some far away country.

Joshua missed his daddy. He wanted to go fishing with him. He wanted to show him how he had learned to ride a bike and he wanted to show him his missing teeth; sometimes it would be nice to just be able to sit beside him while he read a book or watched television. Joshua's dad had been gone one whole year. "Freedom sure does cost a lot," he thought. But Joshua wouldn't complain. His job was to be brave and not to worry his mom and sister. Joshua was the man of the house and he had to take good care of his family while daddy was away.

On Monday, Memorial Day, Joshua joined his Cub Scout pack. They gathered with others to sing songs about the flag and our country. Everyone waved flags and banners. Afterwards, Josh and the Scouts went to the graveyard where they put flags on the graves of all the soldiers who had fallen in war. This made Joshua very sad. He hoped his daddy was okay. He whispered a prayer to God, "Please take good care of my daddy and bring him home soon," then he turned to go. As he took one step forward he ran right smack into a tall man in uniform. "Excuse me, sir!" he said. As Joshua looked up, he saw his father's face smiling down at him. Joshua jumped into his arms, and this time he cried. "I missed you daddy. I missed you so much! I'm glad you're home!" He hugged his dad's neck so tightly he didn't want to let go. "I love you, daddy," he said. "I love you too, son," said his dad, as he patted his head.

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What holiday was it going to be?
 - A. Halloween
 - B. The 4th of July
 - C. Memorial Day
 - D. Joshua's Birthday

2. What did Joshua learn in Cub Scouts?
 - A. He learned about the flag and how to show respect for it.
 - B. He learned to sing songs.
 - C. He learned to march.
 - D. He learned how to keep promises.

3. What did the flag make Joshua think about?
 - A. Marching.
 - B. Singing.
 - C. How beautiful it was.
 - D. It made him think of his daddy.

4. What did Joshua want to do?
 - A. He wanted to be a soldier.
 - B. He wanted to be with his daddy.
 - C. He wanted to make good grades.
 - D. He wanted to ride his bike.

5. Who did Joshua meet at the graveyard?
 - A. His mother.
 - B. His teacher.
 - C. His Scout Leader.
 - D. His daddy.

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ANSWER KEY

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