

Winning by **WORKING**

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a blue t-shirt and jeans, is mowing a lawn with a red lawnmower. He is looking off to the side. The background shows a house with a brick chimney and a garden with yellow flowers.

WRITTEN BY
Cristie Reed

SOCIAL
SKILLS

Level: N Word Count: 652 Words

100th word: **rewarding** page 7

Content Area Vocabulary:

Read the list. What do these words mean?

benefits
care
contribution
determination
efforts
motivate
needs
serve
well-being
work



Building Background Knowledge

Before reading a book, it is important to tap into what your child or students already know about the topic. This will help them develop their vocabulary, increase their reading comprehension, and make connections across the curriculum.

- 1.** Look at the cover of the book.
What will this book be about?
- 2.** What do you already know about the topic?
- 3.** Let's study the Table of Contents.
What will you learn about in the book's chapters?
- 4.** What would you like to learn about this topic?
Do you think you might learn about it from this book? Why or why not?
- 5.** Use a reading journal to write about your knowledge of this topic. Record what you already know about the topic and what you hope to learn about the topic.
- 6.** Read the book.
- 7.** In your reading journal, record what you learned about the topic and your response to the book.
- 8.** Complete the activities at the end of the book.

Winning by

WORKING

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WORK IS REWARDING



Suppose you hear someone say, “There’s lots of work to be done today. I’m going to need your help.” How would you feel? Do you dread the idea of doing hard work? Or, do you think of work as a way to make an important **contribution** to your family?





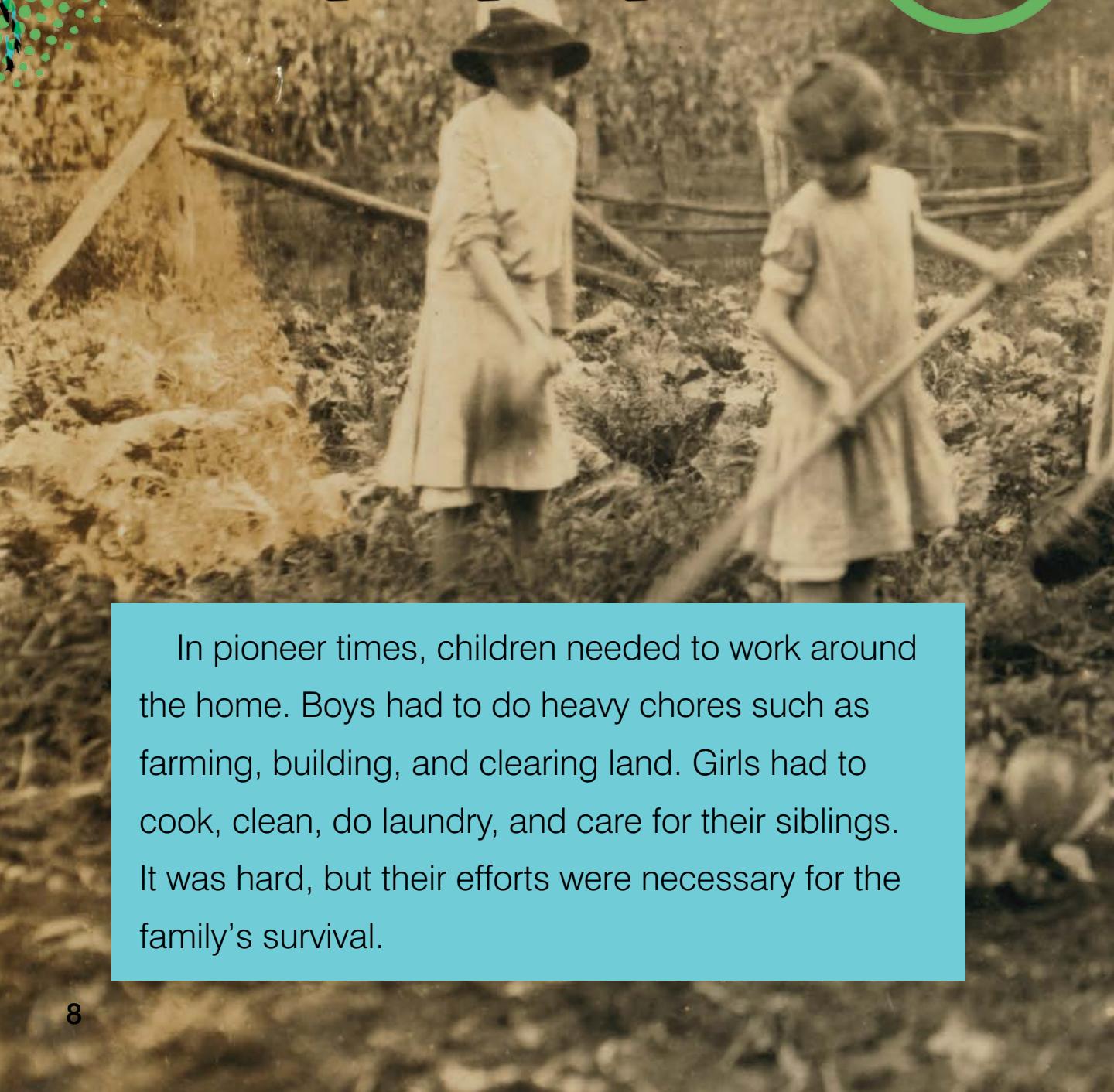
Work is an important part of a well-rounded life.

Work is done to take care of things we value. Work is done to make products, serve others, or as a contribution to the greater good.



When people experience the benefits of hard work, they learn that working hard is rewarding. Working hard creates a strong feeling of self-worth. Working hard gives you confidence and provides you with a feeling of success. Hard workers are winners!

CHILDREN'S WORK: THEN AND NOW



In pioneer times, children needed to work around the home. Boys had to do heavy chores such as farming, building, and clearing land. Girls had to cook, clean, do laundry, and care for their siblings. It was hard, but their efforts were necessary for the family's survival.



*This vacuum cleaner doesn't even require
anyone to be home to get the job done.*



Family life has changed, but families still have lots of needs. Modern electronics and devices have made taking care of a home easier for everyone. Children no longer have to work to provide food and shelter for their family.



Make WORK FUN

Listen to music.
Make it a game.
Work together.



Today, children have school work and extra activities that take up a lot of their time. Still, working and helping around the house is important to the overall **well-being** of every family. It takes all family members working together to build a safe and happy home.



Everyone can contribute to their home and family. Both boys and girls are capable of helping at home, even from an early age.

Make a CHORE CHART

Keep track of chores that need to be done and use it as a checklist to track the chores that have been completed.

Inside Chores	Outside Chores
make beds wash dishes empty the dishwasher cook meals fold clothes dust furniture sweep or vacuum floors clean room empty garbage cans	water plants rake leaves clean windows mow the lawn pull weeds sweep sidewalks care for pets trash and recycling wash the car



WORK AT SCHOOL AND IN THE COMMUNITY



School is the first place that children learn about developing a strong **work ethic**. It is their first job. At school, children learn to become independent workers. They also learn to work cooperatively with others as part of a team or group. The adults at school, like teachers, counselors, and coaches are there to **motivate** us to learn.



But school work is really your work! You need to take ownership for your school work and homework. Both take a lot of **determination** and it's not easy. When students work hard at school, they are rewarded with a sense of **accomplishment**, good grades, and respect from their peers.



Successful schools and thriving communities are created by adults and children. Children can work to make valuable contributions to their schools and communities as **volunteers**. At school, older students can help younger ones as tutors or buddies.



Children can serve their community as part of a team or work group. Work alongside others to complete big projects that benefit everyone.

WINNING WORK HABITS

Being a successful worker means practicing a few good habits. Try out these habits to help you with work at home, school, and in the community.

1. *Get motivated.* Think about the importance of the job.
2. *Be **persistent** and don't quit.* Keep trying until the task is complete.
3. *Use determination.* Set a goal and work to reach that goal.
4. *Be **resourceful**.* Find ways to make work easier or more fun.
5. *Be **conscientious**.* Try to do your best on every task.
6. *Learn how to handle stress.* If a task is difficult, step back and ask for help.



Get Ahead WITH HARD WORK

Tasks get completed
quicker and you have more
time for other activities.



*Working hard gives you a sense of accomplishment
and helps others at the same time.*



Work with adults to learn winning work habits. Talk to parents and teachers to learn about their experiences with work. Adults can share their successes and their challenges. You can follow the examples of successful adults and learn how to handle important responsibilities.

Adults can help kids develop a strong work ethic.



THE VALUE OF WORK

Work serves a purpose. People must work to achieve their goals in life. As people grow up, they learn how to take care of themselves, their family, friends, and possessions. Positive feelings come from a job well done. Working hard inspires people around you to do the same. Learning to work hard prepares you for the future. Hard work is essential to becoming an independent and successful adult.



GLOSSARY

accomplishment (uh-KOM-plish-muhnt): something done successfully

conscientious (kon-shee-EN-shuhss): making sure you do things well and thoroughly

contribution (kon-truh-BYOO-shun): giving money or help to a person or organization

determination (di-tur-mi-NAY-shun): to act with a firm purpose

motivate (MOH-tuh-vate): to encourage someone to do something

persistent (per-SIS-tuhnt): continue without being discouraged

resourceful (ri-SORSS-fuhl): good at knowing what to do or where to get help in any situation

volunteers (vol-uhn-TIHR斯): people who do a job without pay

well-being (WEL-BEE-ing): health and happiness

work ethic (werk ETH-ik): a belief in the importance of work

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WEBSITES TO VISIT

- www.knowitall.org/kidswork
- www.kids.usa.gov/jobs/index.shtml
- www.theleaderinme.org/the-7-habits-for-kids

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Cristie Reed lives in Florida with her husband and her dog, Rocky. She has been a teacher and reading specialist for 32 years. When she was a child, her mom and dad taught her to have a strong work ethic. She wants children to know that you can achieve your dreams through hard work in school and in life.



Meet The Author!

www.meetREAuthors.com



Comprehension and Extension Activities

After reading the book, work on the following questions with your child or students in order to check their level of reading comprehension and content mastery.

- 1.** Explain what it means to have a strong work ethic.
- 2.** How are you rewarded with a sense of accomplishment after working hard?
- 3.** List and describe winning work habits.
- 4.** Who teaches you winning work habits?
- 5.** What is the value of work?

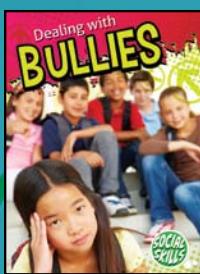
Extension Activity

Think about the goals you would like to achieve in life. Create a list of those goals. Next to each goal, write a sentence or two about what you will need to do to reach that goal.

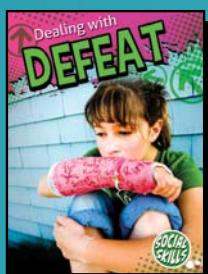


Do you dread the idea of doing hard work or do you think of work as a way to make an important contribution? Working hard creates a strong feeling of self-worth and confidence. Working hard inspires people around you to do the same. Learn how to prepare yourself for the future and work to achieve your goals in life. *This title will allow students to explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text, identifying which reasons and evidence support which point(s).*

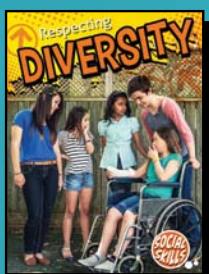
Books In This Series:



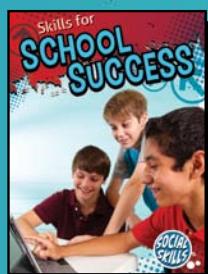
Dealing with Bullies



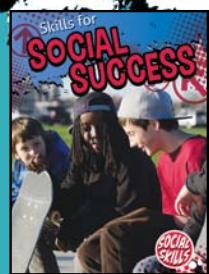
Dealing with Defeat



Respecting Diversity



Skills for School Success



Skills for Social Success



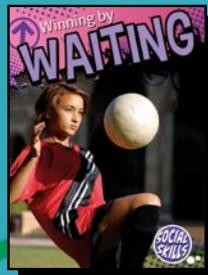
Social Media and the Internet



Winning by Giving



Winning by Teamwork



Winning by Waiting



Winning by Working

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