

Sue jumped out of bed as soon as the alarm rang. She wanted to be sure to be at school early, for today was the class skating party. As Sue dressed, she thought of all the events that had led up to this party. Late last fall, her class had not been doing very well. Very few of the kids were working and some even thought it was cool to talk back to the teacher. Finally, after one very rough day, the teacher had broken down and cried. That teacher left school and never came back, all because of how badly the students behaved. Well, then the kids in the class really acted badly. They threw spitballs at the ceiling and did not do their work. Ten teachers had walked out of the classroom in two months.

This had ended when Mrs. Jones became the teacher. Mrs. Jones was little, but she was also very smart. She had eyes in the back of her head (the class thought), because she could see everything the students did in the room. If a kid acted badly, she could give him a look that stopped him from what he was doing. With Mrs. Jones in the room, the class worked harder than they had ever worked before.

Besides the schoolwork, the students did other kinds of work. They baked cookies for bake sales and washed cars when the weather was warm. "All of this work is to earn money," Mrs. Jones said "to go on a special trip at the end of the year." At first the class didn't believe her, but as the students saw how much money was earned so far, they worked harder than ever before. The class worked hard at schoolwork as well as the bake sales and car washes.

Now the big day had arrived for the skating party. After homeroom, Mrs. Jones got the group in a long line and they climbed onto a school bus, one by one. The students whispered all the way to

the skating rink. Mrs. Jones gave them a dirty look if they talked aloud. Finally, the bus pulled up in front of the building. What fun it was to be at the skating rink! The floor was smooth under the skates. The music and lights beat to the latest dance songs. The cokes, popcorn, and hotdogs tasted wonderful.

On the ride back to school the group was quiet. The students were tired from skating and their tummies were sore from all of the food. Sue said, and all of the other kids agreed, that being nice and working hard was worth it!

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