

“Class, everyone needs to be thinking about what they want to present to the class as their science project,” said Mr. Grant, the seventh-grade science teacher. “You need to have your project approved by me before undertaking any tasks, please. Class is dismissed.”

Eddie had been thinking about what he wanted to do for his science project for a long time. His mother was a nutritionist. She worked in a hospital telling doctors and nurses what foods were good to feed patients. She said that food was sometimes more important than medicine because it helped bodies to mend and grow. She discouraged Eddie from eating junk foods because she said they were bad for his body and they lacked important vitamins. Eddie wanted to see how important food was, so he designed an experiment to find out. Mr. Grant discussed the experiment with Eddie and agreed that it would be interesting.

The next day Eddie took two of his pet mice to school. There he put them in two different cages, side by side. Each day after lunch, Eddie fed the mice, but he fed them different food. He fed Ralph the food that they served in the school cafeteria, which was supposed to be balanced and good for you. Usually he fed Ralph the vegetables and

meat that they served, and Ralph liked it. Cappy, however, was fed chips and cookies that Eddie took from his friends who brought them from home in their lunches. The experiment continued for two weeks. By the end, Ralph looked healthy, but Cappy's fur was falling out in patches and he was weak.

Eddie concluded, along with Mr. Grant and the rest of the class, that a balanced meal was important. After he had presented the results to the class, Mr. Grant congratulated him on a job well done. "You yourself may grow up to be a leading doctor in the field of nutrition," Mr. Grant said.

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