

# *A BAKER'S STORY*

**Hal Ames**



A long time ago, a happy family lived in the big city on the shore of the great sea. They had four children. The oldest was Rommel, then Jeralynn, followed by Marisu and finally David.

The family owned a bakery on the corner of the two main streets in the city. They had a very good business. All of the customers gave them their orders the day before, so when Joseph and his wife Marissa started early in the morning they knew exactly what to bake. It was hard work. They worked seven days a week.

Rommel was learning the lessons of a baker. He worked with his father every day.

Since she was six years old, Jeralynn had helped her mother in the store taking orders and helping people get exactly what they wanted. She enjoyed her work and was very friendly. Everyone loved her smile.

Marisu went to school. Her goal was to become a nurse.

David was the wild one. He did not want to do much work. He just wanted to play all the time. David's favorite game was to hide from his father. When his father needed him to carry supplies, he would hide. When his father got angry with him, David would then come out of hiding to help. He thought it was a game. His father did not think so.

One day, Joseph was going down the stairs to his bakery when he slipped and fell. He was in great pain. He told his family to help him go to his oven so he could make the day's food.

He said, "After the food is prepared for the day, I'll go to see the doctor."

The family got scared. They did everything to help their father prepare the baked goods for sale that day.

As the day passed, Joseph got slower and slower. Even though he was in great pain, he refused to go to the hospital until all the work was finished.

Finally, he agreed to go to the doctor. The children begged a taxi driver to take their father to the hospital. In exchange for a few loaves of bread, the driver took Joseph to the hospital.

The doctor examined Joseph and told him he had broken his ankle. He was surprised that Joseph had been able to work so hard that morning. He told Rommel that his father needed to have surgery. He would not be able to work for several weeks until the bone healed. Joseph was shocked. He did not want to rest. He wanted to work!

The next day, Joseph had the surgery to repair his broken bone. His family came to visit him that night. He told them that it might be a good idea to hire extra people to work in the bakery until he came home.

Rommel told his father, “The family has voted, and we agreed to run the business during your time in the hospital. We’ll do the work, no matter how long it takes. The cost of the hospital bills will be high, and we need to save money.”

Joseph cried when he heard this because he loved his family so much.

The next day, the family started two hours earlier. Rommel woke David and told him that the whole family had to work together while their father was in the hospital.

David thought his brother was joking. He just laughed and rolled over to go back to sleep.

Rommel said to his brother, “If you don’t help prepare the food today, our business will fail, and then we won’t have anything to eat.”

David got up and began to do what his brother asked. His mother checked to see what he was doing, and he was busy, busy, busy!

Marisu stayed home from school to help. She said she could make up the classes

later.

Joseph was a very hard worker, and he had very high standards for his food. His father had been a baker and his grandfather had been a baker as well. He learned all about baking from them.

It was going to be difficult for Rommel to be as good as his father, but he had helped his father for a long time so he knew exactly what to do.

Many of their customers heard about the accident. Marisu put a jar on the counter for people to put their small coins into to help. The jar was full every day!

After two days in the hospital, it was time for Joseph to come home. After the family finished the day's business, they hired a driver to bring their father home.

Outside of the shop was a big sign that said, "WELCOME HOME FATHER!"

Many of their customers came to welcome him home also. When Joseph saw the sign and the people outside of his house, he cried with happiness. In his heart, he had the love of his family. Even though he knew that he would not be able to work for several more weeks, he knew whatever might happen to him or his family they would be just fine.

VOCABULARY (*Match the word to its definition*)

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|---------------------|---|
| 1. bakery _____     | a. sweet baked goods                    |
| 2. submit _____     | b. place to get well                    |
| 3. counter (n)_____ | c. choose, elect                        |
| 4. begged _____     | d. verify, confirm, make sure it is OK  |
| 5. hospital _____   | e. company, place to work               |
| 6. suggest _____    | f. to give something in advance         |
| 7. to vote _____    | g. workspace, stand, place to display   |
| 8. business _____   | h. place to bake bread and sweet things |
| 9. to check _____   | i. pleaded, implored, “please!”         |
| 10. pastries _____  | j. propose, recommend                   |

TRUE / FALSE

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 1. Marisu wanted to be a nurse.                            | T / F |
| 2. Joseph fell and broke his hip.                          | T / F |
| 3. The family closed the business after the accident.      | T / F |
| 4. The city was in a valley.                               | T / F |
| 5. David was the youngest child.                           | T / F |
| 6. The customers gave coins to help Joseph and his family. | T / F |
| 7. Joseph’s father was a carpenter.                        | T / F |
| 8. Joseph had surgery to fix his arm.                      | T / F |
| 9. Jeralynn helped her mother in the store.                | T / F |
| 10. Joseph died in the hospital.                           | T / F |

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Where was the bakery located? \_\_\_\_
  - a) in the city by the seashore
  - b) the outskirts of town
  - c) on an island
  - d) next to the church
  
2. When Joseph fell down, what did he break? \_\_\_\_
  - a) his back
  - b) his arm
  - c) his knee
  - d) his ankle
  
3. Who put the jar on the counter to raise money for Joseph while he was in the hospital? \_\_\_\_
  - a) David
  - b) Marisu
  - c) Rommel
  - d) Jeralynn
  
4. Where did the customers put the money to help Joseph? \_\_\_\_
  - a) in a jar
  - b) on the counter
  - c) in a book
  - d) under his bed

COMPREHENSION: (*Write a complete sentence to answer the question.*)

1. What happened to Joseph?

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2. How long was Joseph in the hospital?

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3. What was the name of the oldest child?

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4. What kind of business did they own?

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5. Who baked the food when Joseph was in the hospital?

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6. Who put money into the jar to help pay the hospital bills?

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7. How did Rommel take his father to the doctor?

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8. What did the sign say when Joseph came home?

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9. How many daughters did Joseph have?

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10. What was the name of Joseph's wife?

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