



CHARACTER BUILDING LESSONS

CARL SOMMER

MAYOR FOR A DAY

About the Book



As a reward for winning the soccer championship, Davy is chosen mayor for a day. The band and the whole town assemble together for this great event. Tired of his parents' rules, Davy's first official announcement as mayor is to eliminate all rules. The parents' groan, but the children jump up and down for joy. But the day without rules is a disaster for everyone. The whole town becomes angry, but Davy finally saves the day.

In this brilliantly illustrated and fascinating story, Carl Sommer points out the importance of citizenship, rules for maintaining civic virtue, and respect for the law.

Main Virtues

**Respect for Others/Kindness/
Friendship**

Other Virtues

Appreciation, Caring, Cheerfulness, Community Service, Compassion, Cooperation, Courtesy, Fairness, Justice, Kindness, Obedience to Parents, Peacefulness, Respect for Humankind, Responsible Citizenship, Self-Discipline, Sportsmanship, and Unity



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Rules

Davy's dad and mom had rules in their home, but to Davy there were too many. These were some of the rules:

Look both ways before crossing the street.
Go to bed on time.
Sit up straight.
Eat your food.
Brush your teeth.
Clean your room.
Make your bed.
Do your homework.

“Whew!” Davy mumbled to himself. “I hate rules!”
Rules are important, and those who are wise learn to obey them.

Civic Virtue—Accepting Rules

When Dad heard Davy mumbling, he said, “A family without rules will never be happy.”

But Davy thought, “I don't think so. If we didn't have rules, then we'd really be happy.”

All families, nations, businesses, schools, and institutions, must have rules in order to be peaceful, safe, and successful.

Learning to Work

Instead of doing his homework right away, Davy watched his friends play. Then he groaned, “Ohhhhh! How I wish I didn't have to do my homework.”

Davy didn't like to work, he wanted to play. There is a time for play, but to become successful one needs to learn to work.

Fulfilling Our Vows

The mayor now realized how foolish he had been for making such a promise to let someone become a mayor for a day and choose whatever he wanted to do. But he had given his word, and a promise is a promise.

We should fulfill our vows. When we say something, we should do what we say. We should be very careful in what we promise to do. It is better not to make a vow, than to make a vow and break it.

Listening to Parents

Since Davy was Mayor for the Day, he did not listen to his mom and dad. Davy said, “This is how it should *always* be. I can do whatever *I* want.”

Immature Davy will soon learn that doing whatever he wants for the present, does not bring lasting happiness. Wise children listen to their parents.

Being Kind to Others

While Davy stood in the lunch line, a group of boys jumped in front of him. “Hey!” complained Davy. “Why don’t you guys go to the back of the line?”

“Because we don’t have to,” said the big kid.

“That’s not fair,” said Davy.

“Try to stop me,” the big kid snapped back.

The big kids were bullies. Bullies pick on weaker and smaller children. Kind people think of others.

Citizenship—Obeying Rules

When Davy left school he said to a friend, “That was the worst day ever! A school without rules is terrible!”

Rules are made to protect us. Imagine what your school would be like without rules.

Respect for Law—Not Stealing

To some people, “no rules” meant they could do—and have—whatever they wanted.

In stores, sales people were selling, but buyers were not buying. They were taking items off the shelves and walking out of the store.

In restaurants, cooks were cooking, but people were not paying for the food they ate! Things were getting worse and worse.

Since there were no rules, people around town were disobeying the former rules and stealing.

Eating Properly

When Davy came home from playing soccer, he looked into the pot of food that Mom was cooking, and groaned, “I don’t want to eat that.”

“But it’s good for you,” said Mom.

“Remember?” said Davy. “No rules today.”

“What do you want?” asked Dad.

“Davy rubbed his stomach. “I want a large bowl of ice cream with lots of fudge topping covered with cherries!”

Davy did not want to eat the healthy food that his mom had prepared; he only wanted to eat a large bowl of ice cream with lots of fudge topping covered with cherries. Smart people learn to eat properly and they take care of their bodies.

The Law of Sowing and Reaping

Dad warned Davy, “You won’t feel good if you eat only that.”

“I’ll be all right,” said Davy with a big grin.

“Okay,” said Dad.

“Mmmmm!!!! Mmmmm!!!!” mumbled Davy. He ate and ate and ate. It was his best meal ever! “This is the way we should *always* eat!” he said.

Davy became sick because he didn’t eat properly. There is the law of sowing and reaping—one reaps what one sows. When we eat properly, we become healthy; when we eat improperly, we become sick. Be wise—take care of your body.

A School Without Rules

Disorderly classrooms
Fighting
Running in the halls
No one is safe
Children roaming the school
Many absentees
Noisy
Fearful
Anger
Disrespect for teachers, principal, students, and all others
Everyone is miserable
No one is learning

A School With Rules

Orderly classrooms
Harmony
No running in the halls
Everyone is safe
Children do not roam in the school
Fewer absentees
Calm
Delightful
Peace
Respect for teacher, principals, students, and all others
Everyone is happy
Everyone is learning

Questions

1. What did the mayor of Springdale promise he would do for the players if they won the soccer champion ship?

The mayor promised, “If the Cougars win the championship, the team’s best player will become mayor for a day.”

2. How many winning teams did Springdale have?

Small, peaceful Springdale never had a winning team.

3. How many goals did Davy make against the Lions?

Davy made three goals.

4. Who was chosen, “Most Valuable Player?”

Davy was chosen, “Most Valuable Player.”

5. What did Mom say to Davy because he played a great game.

Mom said, “I’ve cooked a special meal and baked your favorite dessert.”

6. When Davy saw the cake, what did he say?

Davy said, “Mmmmmm! Mmmmmm! I just want to eat dessert.”

7. A. What rule did Davy’s family have about eating meals?

Davy’s family had this rule, “No dessert until you eat your meat and vegetables.”

B. Why do you think Davy’s family had the rule, “No dessert until you eat your meat and vegetables”?

Davy’s family had the rule so that Davy would grow up being healthy and strong.

8. A. What were some of the rules that Davy hated?

Go to bed on time.

Sit up straight.

Eat your food.

Brush your teeth.

Clean your room.

Make your bed.

Do your homework.

B. Read each rule and ask, “Why do you think Davy’s family had this rule?”

These family rules were to make Davy healthy, wealthy, and wise.

9. What did Davy mumble to himself about rules?

Davy mumbled to himself, “I hate rules!”

10. When Davy’s dad heard him mumbling about the rules, what did his dad tell him?

Davy’s dad said, “A family without rules will never be happy.”

11. What did Davy say about rules?

Davy said, “If we didn’t have rules, then we’d really be happy.”

12. Why do nations, businesses, schools, and institution need rules?

Nations, businesses, schools, and institution need rules in order to be peaceful, safe, and successful.

13. What was the rule Davy had about doing homework?

After supper, Davy always had to do his homework. If he finished early, he could go outside and play.

14. What did Davy groan for as he sat at his desk watching his friends play instead of doing his homework?

Davy groaned, "Ohhhhhh! How I wish I didn't have to do my homework."

Davy didn't like to work, he wanted to play. There is a time for play, but one needs to learn how to work in order to become successful.

15. What did Davy announce when the mayor said, "You can do whatever you want"?

Davy announced, "On Monday—there will be no rules!"

16. What did all the boys and girls shout?

All the boys and girls shouted, "Hoorayyyyy!!!"

17. What did all the dads and moms groan?

All the dads and moms groaned, "Ohhhhhh!!!"

18. What did all the dads and moms know that a day without rules would be like?

They knew that a day without rules would be a great disaster.

19. What did the mayor do when he realized how foolish he had been for making such a promise?

The mayor bowed his head and said, "I must honor my word. On Monday we will have no rules."

20. Why is it important of fulfill you vows?

It is important to fulfill our vows, otherwise people will lose their trust in us. We should be very careful in what we promise to do. It is better not to make a promise, than to make a promise and break it.

21. What did Davy's mom warn Davy as he walked into the kitchen Monday morning and announced that he did not want to eat breakfast today?

Davy's mom warned him, "But you're going to be hungry."

22. What did Davy's dad tell him about wearing his jacket?

Davy's dad said, "You better wear it. You'll be cold."

23. What did Davy say when his dad said it was okay for him not to wear his

jacket?

Davy said, "This is how it should always be. I can do whatever I want."

Davy was Mayor for the Day. So when his mom and dad told him what to do, he didn't listen to them. Wise children listen and obey their parents.

24. What happened to Davy as he waited at the bus stop?

Davy felt cold—so cold he began to shiver.

25. What did Davy say when his classmate said, "It's two hours before lunchtime"?

Davy said, "I wish I had eaten breakfast."

26. What kind of day did Davy say it would be when the teacher reminded him, "Today, we have no rules in our school"?

Davy said, "This is going to be a g-r-e-a-t day."

27. When Davy hit his head against a wall because a boy was running in the halls, what did he say about rules?

Davy said, "I should have kept one rule—'No running in the halls.'"

28. What did some bigger boys do as Davy stood in the lunch line?

A group of boys jumped in front of him.

29. Why did Davy know he could not stop the big kid?

The boy was bigger and stronger than he was.

The big boys were bullies. Bullies pick on weaker and smaller children.

30. What did Davy say to the girl behind him in the lunch line about cutting in line?

Davy said, "I should have kept the rule—'No cutting in line.'"

31. When a shoe hit Davy in the head, what did he say about school rules?

Davy said, "I should have kept all the school rules"?

32. A. What did Davy say about a school without rules?

Davy said, "A school without rules is terrible!"

B. Why is it terrible for a school to be without rules?

School rules are made to protect teachers and children, and also to enable the school to provide the best atmosphere for learning.

33. What thought did Davy have when his mom told him, "Look both ways before you cross the street"?

Davy thought, "Mom must have forgotten. That's a rule, and today there are no rules."

34. What did the driver yell to Davy when he said he was going too fast?
The driver yelled, "No rules today!"

35. What did Davy say about the driving rules to his friend?
Davy said, "I should have kept the driving rules."

36. When the other boys began breaking the soccer rules, what kind of game was it for Davy?
It was the worst game of soccer that Davy had ever played.

37. What was happening in the stores?
In stores, sales people were selling, but buyers were not buying. They were taking items off the shelves and walking out the store without paying for them.

38. What was happening in the restaurants?
Cooks were cooking, but people were not paying for the food they ate.
Since there were no rules, people around town were disobeying the former rules and stealing.

39. What were angry men and women and boys and girls beginning to do?
Angry men and women and boys and girls began gathering in the town square.

40. Instead of eating the food that mom had cooked, what did Davy say he wanted to eat?
Davy said, "I want a large bowl of ice cream with lots of fudge topping covered with cherries!"

Davy did not want to eat the healthy food that his mom had prepared.

41. What happened to Davy soon after he had finished eating?
His stomach began to hurt really bad.

Davy became sick because he didn't listen to his parents about eating properly. There is a law of sowing and reaping—one reaps what one sows. When we eat properly, we become healthy; when we eat improperly, we become sick.

42. Davy said to the crowd that gathered in front of his house, "I'm sorry." What did Davy say to them about rules?
Davy said, "I thought a day without rules would be the happiest day of my life—but this has been the WORST day of my life! Now I know that rules are very, very important!"

43. What did Davy tell the mayor about rules?

Davy said, "Mr. Mayor, you are right. You cannot have a town without rules."

44. What did Davy tell his dad about rules?

Davy said, "And Dad, you are right, too. A family without rules will never be happy."

45. What did Davy say that made the crowd happy?

Davy said, "From this moment on, I am no longer the mayor. I resign!"

46. What did the crowd and Davy do when the mayor announced, "As mayor of this fine community, I declare that from now on—we have rules"?

The crowd shouted, "Hooray!!!"

47. Who shouted the loudest of all?

Davy shouted the loudest of all.

48. Why did Davy shout the loudest?

Davy shouted the loudest because he finally realized that rules are important for families and communities.