



Babysitting for the Baxter Twins

The bell sounded, and Laney stood up and joined the other students as they filed out of Mr. Reynold's classroom. "We'll have a short quiz on Monday about what we learned by doing this experiment today," he called after them. "If you need to, look over your notes about open and closed circuits."

"Hey, Laney," said Kate, who had been her lab partner for the experiment. "Do you want to come to my house tomorrow and hang out?"

Laney's heart soared. She had been attending this school for an entire month, and this was the first time any of her new classmates had asked her if she wanted to do anything outside of school. Almost immediately, though, she remembered that she had agreed to babysit on Saturday afternoon. Her smile turned to a frown. "I'd really *like* to, but I already agreed to babysit for the Baxter family tomorrow."

"The Baxter twins?!?" Kate's eyes grew wide. "Good luck with *that*."

"Uh-oh. That doesn't sound good," Laney replied.

Kate shuddered. "No amount of money could *ever* be enough to convince me to babysit for *them* again. I had nightmares for months after I babysat those two girls."

Laney wanted to ask for specific details, but they had to split apart to head to their next classes. Unfortunately, school ended a short time later. As Laney walked down the sidewalk, she heard footsteps running up behind her. She glanced over her shoulder. Kate handed her a slip of paper with her phone number written on it. "I have to run, now, but call me on Sunday. We'll definitely need to talk!" She turned and ran toward the school bus.

Mrs. Baxter picked Laney up at exactly 2:00 the next day. The twins, Rachel and Rebecca, sat silently in their booster seats, listening to their mom give instructions to Laney.

When they arrived at their house, Mrs. Baxter gave Laney a quick tour, and then Mr. and Mrs. Baxter departed for the wedding they were attending. Laney looked at the girls.

"What do you want to do?" she asked them.

"Play dress-up!" Rachel shouted and scurried for her bedroom.

Rebecca followed, screaming "I want Cinderella dress!"

"No! I want Cinderella!" Rachel yelled.

Laney hurried after the girls. The twins picked up the Cinderella dress and began tugging with all of their might, each trying to get the dress out of her sister's grasp.

"Stop!" directed Laney. "Your beautiful Cinderella dress is going to rip if you keep pulling on it. Doesn't someone want to wear this pretty pink dress?"

The girls ignored Laney and continued to tug. "MY DRESS!" they both hollered.

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Laney managed to convince them to play "birthday party". While the twins covered their eyes, she quickly stuffed two non-Cinderella dresses in bags, and then presented each girl with a bag. "Now make sure you act happy with whichever dress I gave you, or you're going to hurt my feelings," Laney said.

When Rachel peered into her bag, she immediately burst into tears. "But I wanted the *blue* dress!" A moment later, Rebecca began to wail, too.

"This isn't working," Laney muttered under her breath. "I have an idea! Let's watch the Cinderella movie!"

"Mom said no more TV today. We watched TV all morning, and now we have to play with you," said Rebecca through her tears.

Laney felt her face turn red. *That figures. Their parents put them in front of a TV all morning so they don't have to deal with them, but then they expect me to entertain them!*

"Fine," replied Laney. "Let's go outside and kick the soccer ball."

Laney and the girls filed outside, but were back in the kitchen within three minutes. Rebecca was sobbing as she covered her left eye. "You did that on purpose!" Rebecca accused her sister.

Rachel skipped to the freezer. "Here's an ice pack," she said, grinning from ear to ear.

Laney glanced desperately at the clock. *Only 16 minutes have passed?* Laney had a feeling that this was going to be a never-ending afternoon.

- Which is most likely the age of the Baxter twins?

A. 1 or 2 years old	C. between 6 and 8 years old
B. between 3 and 5 years old	D. 9 or 10 years old
- What subject was Mr. Reynolds teaching at the beginning of the story?

A. art	B. science	C. math	D. social studies
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- Why did Kate want Laney to call her on Sunday?
 - She wanted to study together for the quiz in Mr. Reynold's classroom.
 - She wanted to try to convince her to join the soccer team.
 - She wanted Laney to help her with her homework.
 - She wanted to discuss their experiences babysitting for the twins.
- How was Laney feeling when Rebecca told her that they couldn't watch any more TV that day?

A. irritated	B. selfish	C. relieved	D. bored
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- What happened when Laney took the twins outside near the end of the story? Write a complete sentence. Which text clues helped you make this inference?