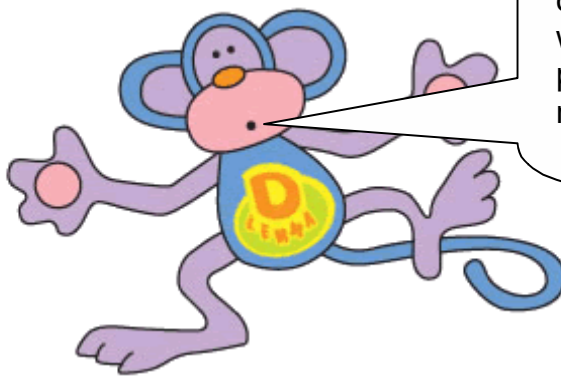


Di Lemma sits in the dark



Hi everyone, hope you are all ok. I'm going to the park today with Jake I can't wait, I love the park. Why don't you come with me?

Di Lemma woke up on Saturday morning, jumped out of bed, threw his clothes on, ran downstairs to the back door where his mum stopped him. "What mum?" said Di Lemma "I want to get to Jakes so we can go to the park". Jake only lived two doors up, so Di Lemma was going to call on him and then they would go to the park across the road, where his mum could see him from the garden. He wasn't allowed to go to the park on the other side of town just yet because he wasn't old enough. Di Lemma's mum told him he had to have his breakfast first and then he could go. Di Lemma ate his rice crispies so fast he nearly choked on them "SLOW DOWN" said Di Lemma's mum, you'll get a tummy ache. Di Lemma spoke with his mouth full "But mum I wanna get to the park!" Di Lemma's mum replied "Ok, but don't speak with your mouth full, the park isn't going anywhere!"

Di Lemma finished his breakfast "Mum, can I go now please?" Di Lemma's mum looked at his cereal bowl it was empty. "Ok" she said "but I want you to do me a favour, please." "What?" Said Di Lemma, sighing. "I want to go to the park". "You can go the park Di Lemma, the favour I want is on the way to the park. I want you to post this letter for me, its very important! It's the electricity bill. I have put a cheque in so that the electricity company will get paid for the electricity we have used to have the lights on and the TV on, and all the other things we need electricity for. Is that ok?" Di Lemma said. "Yes mum that's fine, the post box is right outside Jakes house. I'll do it on the way. Can I go now?" Di Lemma took the letter; his mum told him how important it was he posted it. She told him again it had to be paid on time, or they could end up with no electricity. Di Lemma was only half listening because he was too excited and eager to get to the park. "Ok mum, don't worry, I'll post it" and with that Di Lemma took the letter and ran out of the door and up the road. His mum called after him "Don't forget to post my letter!" Di Lemma thought to himself: it's only a letter; even I can remember that mum!

As Di Lemma came near Jakes house, Jake ran out. “Come on Di Lemma lets go to the park.” Di Lemma ran after Jake and he forgot all about his mum’s letter to the electricity company.

Di Lemma played all morning in the park with Jake. He had to be home at 12.30 for lunch, and then he was going swimming with his Auntie and his cousins in the afternoon, so he was going to have a brilliant day.

Di Lemma rushed home ate the sandwich his mum had made for him really quickly, and then it was upstairs to get changed and pack his swimming bag. When Di Lemma was getting changed he found the letter his mum had given him to post in his pocket “OH NO!!!!” He thought, mum will be really cross that I didn’t post this. Di Lemma quickly stuffed the letter under his mattress and thought he would post it later. Di Lemma went swimming at the pool and had a really good time.

The next few days went really quickly and about a week later Di Lemma’s mum got a letter from the electricity company. It was in large red print. Di Lemma’s mum showed the letter to Di Lemma. “Di Lemma?” she asked “Did you post the letter I asked you to? Remember, the one to the electricity company?” Di Lemma panicked and thought “OH NO I didn’t, I’ll get told off.” Before he knew what was happening, Di Lemma had lied and told his mum he had posted it. Di Lemma’s mum put the red letter in the bin. “Oh” she said. “This must be a mistake then, I knew you would have posted it.” Di Lemma felt really really bad and was quiet for the rest of the day, but he thought that his mum could just pay it next time and he would be able to blame it on the company or the post office.

For the next few days, Di Lemma was busy at school, so he totally forgot about the letter stuffed under his mattress. When Di Lemma got home from school he went into the front room to watch his favourite TV programme. The TV wouldn’t work. “MUM” he called “the TV won’t work” Di Lemma’s mum replied “My radio and my hairdryer won’t work either” Di Lemma’s mum came downstairs and she tried to put one of the lights on, it wouldn’t come on. “OH NO!” She said “The electricity company have cut off the electricity. They have turned it off because they think we haven’t paid, even though you sent the letter with the cheque in it to them.” Di Lemma looked at the ground. “Di Lemma” growled his mum “You did post the letter didn’t you? You said you did” “Well” said Di Lemma “I meant to, but I forgot. I am really sorry. I didn’t realise they would turn it off. I am really sorry mum” Di Lemma’s mum sighed. “Right, I am going to sort out the electricity first and then I’ll deal with you!”

Di Lemma’s mum phoned the electricity company and explained everything to them. She paid them the money that was owed for the electric over the phone. She used her debit card. Within two hours the electricity was back on. In the mean time Di Lemma had been sent to his room to think about what he’d done. He had to sit in the dark because the light wouldn’t come on because there was no electricity. His mum said that it was ok to forget to do things, but it was not ok to lie about it. She explained that if you don’t pay

your bills then people can turn things off or take things away from you. She explained about other things they have to pay for like water, food, gas and the car. She explained these were all things they needed to live a comfortable life. Di Lemma said he was sorry over and over again. He knew now how important it was to pay bills on time and not to tell lies.

Di Lemma says he hopes you've learnt about paying bills on time and not to tell lies.

Di Lemma says bye until next time.....

Get students to look at the worksheet below. Get them to decide which things they think are essential and which things they could live without. Students can tick the column on the worksheet.

Item	Essential	Not essential	Don't know
Gas			
Electricity			
Water			
Latest computer game			
Food			
TV			
Magazines			
Phone			
Computer			
DVDs			
New clothes			
Car			
Sweets			

