1. So Quiet

 The house was so loud. Mother sat down and said, “I can’t do my work. It’s too loud!” She went to see Grandpa. “Grandpa, my house is too loud. The boys are yelling. The girls are crying. Father is pounding. What can I do?” Grandpa looked up. “No problem,” he said. “Bring the cat and the dog into the house.”

 Mother went home and called the cat and the dog into the house. The boys, girls and Father were still noisy, and now the dog was barking at the cat. “I can’t do my work,” Mother sighed. “It’s too loud.” She went back to Grandpa and asked for help. Grandpa nodded. “No problem,” he said. “Bring the rooster and the cow into the house.”

 Mother walked home and pulled the rooster and the cow into the house. The boys, girls and Father were still making annoying sounds. The dog was barking at the cat. The cow was mooing, and the rooster was crowing. “I can’t do my work,” Mother cried. “It’s too loud.” She went back to Grandpa and told him that. Grandpa smiled. “No problem,” he said. “The cat and the dog and the cow and the rooster must go back outside.”

 Mother took the animals outside. The boys were still yelling. The girls were still crying. Father was still pounding. Mother smiled. “Now, I can do my work! It’s so quiet.”

1. Money

 There was a man who worked all of his life and saved all of his money. He loved money more than just about anything, and just before he died, he said to his wife, “Now listen, when I die, I want you to take all my money and place it in the casket with me. I want to take my money to the afterlife.”

 So he got his wife to promise him with all her heart that when he died, she would put all the money in the casket with him.

 Well, one day he died. His wife was sitting there in black next to her closest friend. When they finished the ceremony, just before the undertakers got ready to close the casket, the wife said, “Wait just a minute!”

 She had a shoe box with her. She came over with the box and placed it in the casket. Then the undertakers locked the casket sown and rolled it away. Her friend said, “I hope you weren’t crazy enough to put all that money in the casket.”

 “Yes,” the wife said, “I promised. I can’t lie. I promised him that I was going to put that money in that casket with him.”

 “You mean to tell me you put every cent of his money in the casket with him?”

 “I sure did. I got it all together, I put it into my account and I wrote him a check.”

1. Appreciate Your Mom

Every day after school Ricky went out with his friends. He was often home late, and didn’t call to let his mother know. She worried about him. If she asked him to come home early, he would say, “I do OK at school, so what’s the problem?”

 One day Ricky came home late as usual. He found a note from his father on the table. It said, “Your mother had an accident and I’ve taken her to the hospital. Don’t worry. Please look after yourself tonight.”

 As Ricky heated up some leftovers, he thought about his mom. Of course he loves her, but he realized that he never showed his appreciation. That night Ricky slept badly. He was worried about his mom.

 In the morning Ricky’s father called and said they’d be home soon. Ricky’s mom was much better. Ricky wanted to give her a nice welcome. He set to work cooking a meal for his mom. He wasn’t a good cook but he tried his best to make something special.

 When the car pulled up, Ricky went out to greet his mom. “I didn’t think you would be here,” his mom said. But she was smiling as she followed Ricky into the house. “I am glad you are well,” Ricky said, “and I have a surprise for you!” His mom was touched by Ricky’s efforts, and the whole family sat sown to eat together.

1. Emily, the Rat Who Could Not Read

Once upon a time, there was a lady rat called Emily who could not read. She lived in a small town and every morning used to put on her glasses to read the local newspaper, but she wasn’t able to read it.

“My glasses might be dirty,” thought Emily.

She met a squirrel one day and asked her, “Do you read every day?” “Of course,” said the squirrel. “I can’t because my glasses are too old and dirty,” replied Emily. “You have to go to school to learn to read,” said the squirrel before leaving.

This didn’t convince the lady rat, and she continued walking until she saw a rabbit.

“Can you read?” asked Emily. “Of course. I’m coming from school and have my bag full of books,” said the rabbit. “I can’t. My glasses are too old,” said Emily, and left the place sad. She kept walking and when she saw a dog she asked him, too. “Have you read the newspaper today?” asked Emily. “Yes, I do every day.” said the dog. “Do you wear glasses?” asked Emily. “No, I go to school.” said the dog.

Emily stood there thinking and decided to act, so the next day she bought pencils, a book bag and a notebook, and started school.

After a few weeks she was so proud of what she had learned that when she saw a hen walking past one day, she ran to ask her, “Can you read?” “Of course. I read every day,” said the hen.

Emily was very happy and could finally say, “Me, too! I’m learning at school.” She was so happy that she had a party and invited all her friends, just to announce that she was able to read and was reading a book every night, and advised those who couldn’t read to go to school to learn.