

I Wanted to Play...

...Even if I Got Punished!

Mideline Norelus

BEFORE YOU READ: Did you ever break the rules, knowing you would be punished? Tell the story of what happened. What sort of punishment did you receive as a child?

Every day when I got home from school, my mother encouraged me to do my homework. After that, I had permission to watch cartoons or play with my cousins. As an only child, I was alone a lot, and I didn't have any toys.

My main hobby when I was alone was watching cartoons. When I was with my cousins, we played dominoes. We brought chairs and tables under the trees, where we found shade from the hot sun. Sometimes, I fought with my cousins when they beat me in dominoes. Even when I fought with them, I still showed them respect because they were older than me. That was the play I enjoyed the most in my childhood.

Sometimes, I was in a hurry to start playing with my cousins or watching cartoons, so I lied to my mother and told her my homework was done. I knew punishment was waiting for me, but I did it anyway.

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I received two kinds of punishment for not doing my homework. One punishment came from my father when he got home from work. He made me rehearse my lessons. If I didn't know my lessons, he punished me by making me stay on my knees for one hour. The second punishment came the next day from the teacher, who made me stand in front of the class for one hour. This sounds very harsh, and it was! But sometimes I still chose to play before I finished my homework.



In conclusion, I enjoyed my childhood. I will raise my kids like my parents raised me—to be respectful and pious. But I will change some of their methods. I will give my kids more hobbies and play time, and I will spend more time with them. And I will definitely not punish them the same way that I was punished! I really liked to play when I was a child, and I want my children to enjoy it too, without fear of what comes after.

AFTER YOU READ:

1. Use context clues to figure out the definitions of encourage, hobby, rehearse, harsh, and pious. Verify your definition by looking it up.
2. According to the author, why did she sometimes lie to her mother? What will she do differently with her children?
3. Do you know how to play dominoes? If so, write down the directions and share them with your class. Bring in a set of dominoes and teach others how to play. If you don't know, look it up online and try playing it with your classmates or family.

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Punishment

Punishment (noun): a penalty imposed on someone who has done something wrong. “Parents often use punishment (like time-out) when they are disciplining their children.”

To punish (verb): When you or someone else imposes a penalty. “I will punish you if you cross the street without looking.” “She punishes her child when he behaves badly.”

To get punished (verb): When the penalty is imposed on you or someone else. “I will get punished if I don’t do what my mom says.” “She got punished for not doing her homework.”

Take it further: Discuss punishment. What are we trying to accomplish when we punish? Is punishment generally effective? What are the advantages and disadvantages of punishment?