

THE HYGIENE EXPERIMENT

Jesse's mind wandered as his mother began to talk about the benefits of keeping clean until the words "hygiene experiment" caught his attention. Experiments were something that Jesse enjoyed and could never turn down. He readily listened as his mother finished her explanation.

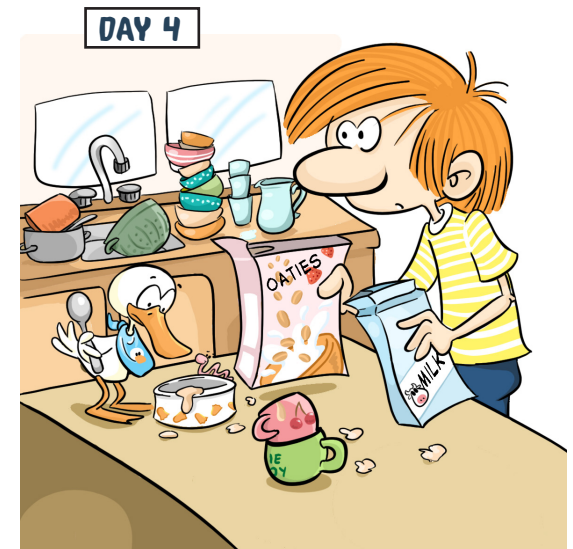
Afterwards Jesse remained in his seat, bewildered by what he'd heard. *Did Mom really mean that I can actually have a full week without cleaning anything, including myself?* Jesse thought. *Well, I like the sound of that! It'll be a nice break from all that cleaning and tidying I'm always having to do. Maybe once it's over, Mom will realize all this hygiene stuff is not worth fussing over, and I won't have to clean up ever again!*

On the first day, Jesse was excited—he skipped his chores and cleaning up after himself. He didn't seem to mind his untidy room or his unkempt hair.

Day two was even better!

And by day three, while Jesse found himself a little itchy and uncomfortable, he was glad he didn't have to bother with showering or washing his hair.

However, by the fourth day, when there were no clean dishes for Jesse to eat from, he began to wonder about his new way of living. It seemed there were inconveniences with this lifestyle too, but Jesse shrugged the thought away.



Coming back from a vigorous game of soccer on day five, Jesse noticed that both he and his bedroom stank. His teeth were feeling pretty yucky, and he actually *wanted* to brush them, but he decided he could put up with it a little longer. He couldn't help but notice, however, that his friends weren't keen on hanging around him. "You're embarrassing to be around, and you smell bad," they said.

By day six, the flies that followed Jesse wherever he went were becoming unbearable. He had thought that not having to worry about personal hygiene or cleaning up after himself would be great, but now it was turning into a bother. His stomach hurt, he looked and felt terrible, his friends had stopped coming around, and he even had trouble sleeping at night because he felt so dirty and gross and was always itchy.

By the end of the seventh day, Jesse was sick and tired of the filth and mess. He ended the experiment by voluntarily taking a shower, followed by a bath, so that he could soak and scrub himself. He brushed his teeth three times in a row. He eagerly and cheerfully washed the dishes and did an in-depth tidying-up of his bedroom. He was surprisingly thankful for washing machines, dish soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, soap, shampoo, and a host of other items associated with cleaning and cleanliness. It was now clear to Jesse just how important daily hygiene was.

Jesse's mom concluded that the week of suffering was worth it! Her previously continual job of reminding and coaxing Jesse to take care of himself and his things and to help out around the house was now over—forever.

The End

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