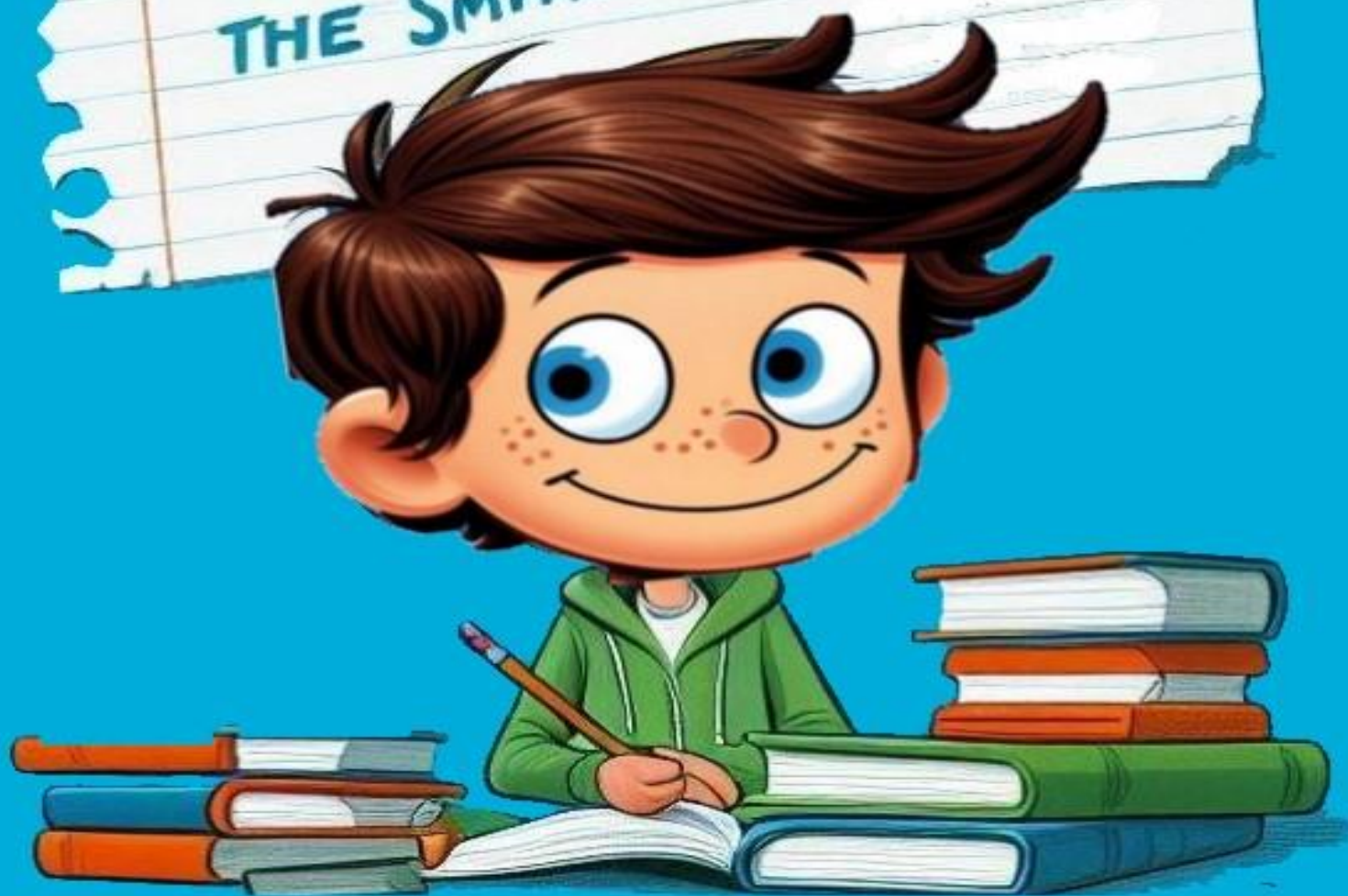


From

# EXCUSES TO EXCELLENCE

HOW LOU BECAME  
THE SMARTEST Kid!



**By: Timothy Ewing**



In a town not too far, lived a young boy named Lou, who refused to do work, he had better things to do! When asked to tidy his room, he'd shake no with his head, "I'm busy playing right now, but I'll do it later," he said.



I'm a brave pirate, on an epic adventure you see, there's a treasure chest outside, waiting for me!" But later never came, for Lou was off on a quest, to find the lost treasure, in the neighbor's secret chest.

His parents sighed, for this excuse was quite bold,  
as Lou dashed off, for adventures untold.



Through the bushes and brush,  
he bravely tread,

but instead of finding  
treasure, he found a  
box, bright red!



With trembling hands, he  
opened the lid wide,  
and inside lay his homework,  
neatly stacked side by side.



"Oh no!" cried Lou, with a groan of despair,  
how did my homework get inside of there?



Then he heard his mom yelling,  
"Come home, it is late!"  
He took with him his homework  
and hopped over the gate

At dinner Lou yawned,  
tired, ready for bed.  
Instead of doing his homework,  
this is what he said,  
"I'm sorry, Mom and Dad,"  
he said with a sigh,  
"But I'm just too sleepy,  
I can't even try."



With a gentle smile, his parents surprisingly agreed,  
knowing sometimes rest was what he'd really need.



At school the teacher asked for the homework, with a stern look, but Lou, of course was ready with another excuse from his book.

"Last night, I was on a pirate's ship, sailing the seas, working on my homework, but then there were bees.



They stung my eyes, they stung my hand, I couldn't read or write. Those bees were fierce, I must admit, they put up quite a fight.

With swollen eyes  
and a throbbing hand,  
I couldn't do my homework,  
as I had planned.



“I know it sounds funny, and might seem silly or absurd,  
but I assure you, this is the truth, every single word!

But now I'm here, ready to learn with all my might,  
to make up for lost time, and get my homework right.

And I'll work extra hard to catch up, I'll start on it today.

And I promise you at the top of my sheet, you'll proudly put an A.”



That night he did his homework

and cleaned his room too,

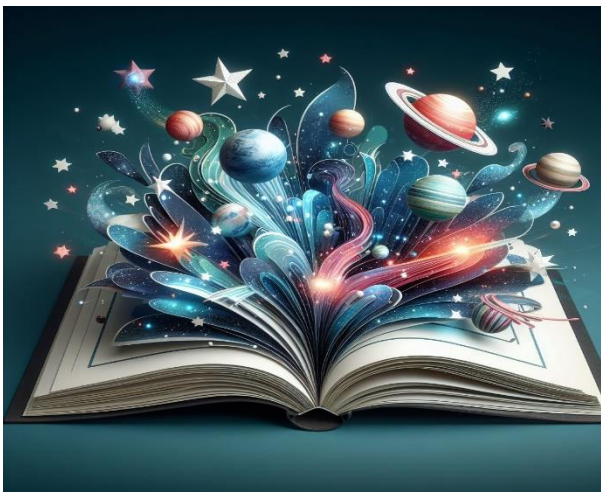


He had so much fun, he didn't realize how much the time flew.

With each problem solved, and each task he had done,  
Lou realized that working hard was actually fun!

His silly excuses became a thing of the past,  
his hard work and effort, it grew really fast.





He learned about stars,  
planets and galaxies,



He learned about flowers,  
plants, and trees.



With books and puzzles,  
he challenged his mind,



And soon he became  
the smartest of his kind!

**So as you read this story, be hardworking just like Lou,  
never giving up, always learning something new.**

**With each step you take, and each goal you pursue,  
remember to be your best, in all that you do.**

**Soon enough, you will be just like Lou,  
finding yourself to be the smartest kid too.**

Dear Readers,

I hope you enjoyed following Lou's journey from making excuses to embracing hard work and becoming the smartest kid in town. In the tale of Lou's journey, I'm reminded of the story in the bible of the parable of the talents, where each individual is entrusted with unique gifts and responsibilities. Lou's initial reluctance to engage in work mirrors the burying of talents, but as he discovers the joy of learning and perseverance, he multiplies his talents and emerges as the smartest kid.

Just as Lou learns to embrace challenges and turn them into opportunities for growth, so too are we called to steward our talents wisely and use them for good. Through diligence and determination, we can cultivate our gifts and fulfill our potential, shining brightly as beacons of light in the world.

Each one of us has the potential to achieve greatness. Whether it's tackling homework, facing challenges, or pursuing our dreams, let's remember that hard work and perseverance can lead us to success. So, keep believing in yourself, keep pushing forward, and never give up on your goals.

As you embark on your own learning adventures, may you find joy, curiosity, and success in every step. May you be inspired by Lou's transformation and strive to make the most of the talents entrusted to you. May you find courage to face challenges, joy in your endeavors, and fulfillment in fulfilling your purpose.

With blessings and warm regards,

*Timothy Ewing*

