

The Golden Pendant

Josh woke up to a surge of excitement. At first, he didn't realize what he was excited about, but after a second or two, he remembered it was his birthday. But not just any birthday, it was his twelfth one!

For his twelfth birthday, his dad had promised something very special. He raced down the stairs. "How's my favorite birthday boy?" His mother cooed to him. "Come on, I'm not a little kid anymore," he complained, annoyed. "What's for breakfast?" "Anyway, your father wanted me to give you something," she continued, ignoring Josh's question. "Your father said something about you being old enough, family tradition, blah blah blah. Honestly, I kind of zoned out." Josh's dad was a college professor, and he loved to give slideshows and other kinds of boring stuff, so he could be VERY boring. "What's for breakfast?" he repeated. "Oh, anything you want. Your birthday treat." His mother replied cheerfully. Josh got some cereal, and his mom pulled something out of her purse. After he sat down, his mother came over and sat down by him. Here's your special thing from your dad. She held out a tiny black box. Josh was a little disappointed. He had hoped for a computer or a new phone. Instead, he got a ring box and inside it a... he was so disappointed that he hadn't even looked inside. Then, he thought he must have looked so rude, staring at it with a disgusted face. He looked at his mother, expecting a crestfallen gaze. But instead, her face was as normal as ever, and actually a little amused. "Don't be sorry, Josh. That's what I thought at first to," she reassured him. "What's important is your feeling after you open it. Go on, open it! It won't bite!" she teased. Not sure what to expect, he opened it cautiously. What he saw inside stunned him.

Imagine your most excited feeling. Multiply it by a million. Then you might have a feeling close to what Josh felt as soon as he opened the black box. Inside it was a golden pendant, as big as the tip of a grown man's thumb. What shocked him more was that his family didn't have very much money, due to the bank loans they owed. "How could his father ever had afforded it?" He squeaked. "He inherited it." His mother answered. On it were jewels. Not completely covered, just a little bit of them, shaped like a diamond. "Is-is this pure gold? And the gems?" Josh had meant to say it calmly, but they came out as a peep, not to mention the stuttering. "Yep," she replied. She was definitely amused now. "It's worth thousands!" Josh was bursting with curiosity and questions. "Why don't we sell it and pay the debts we owe?" Josh asked, confused. If they had that much money, then they would not be in such a bad state, living in a rented house, barely

managing to pay. "Your father said that it was very ancient and valuable, passed down by a king of a European country, but no one would believe it, so they wouldn't buy it. "I've also got the chain for it, if you want." "Of course I want to wear it! Why wouldn't I?" he said excitedly. He couldn't wait for school to show it to his friends. "Oh, and a few more thing before I leave." She said suddenly. "It's a tradition. Don't forget to pass it on to your children when they're ready. And don't forget, it's very valuable. Do not lose it, or your dads going to flip. Got it?" "Yeah mom, I won't lose it! Bye!" "Goodbye, birthda- I mean, Josh!" As soon as his mom went out the door, he put the necklace on. By the time he got ready for school, it was 7:30 am. He only had 10 minutes to spare. He raced out of the house, and just barely made it. He glanced at his watch: 7:38. Just enough time to show Joseph, he thought. He scanned through the students, and located Joseph, his best friend. "Hey, what's the rush? You're usually a few minutes late, not early!" Joseph teased. Josh gave him a soft punch on the shoulder. "I wanted to show you something." He said as he pulled out the necklace from under his shirt. "Hey, what's that?" A voice said from behind him. "Oh, hey, Wilson." Josh said dryly, quickly stuffing his necklace back under his shirt. "What's that?" He asked again. "It's nothing," Josh said quickly. "Just a, err, rock." "Oh. Okay, cool. See you later!" said Wilson. He had a habit of stealing valuable things, and Josh had already lost... actually, even he forgot how much Wilson owed him. He said he would pay it back, but wait for so long that you really don't care anymore. It always works. "Nice save there." Joseph congratulated him. But Josh wasn't so sure, because he had felt disbelief in Wilson's words. Just then, the school bell rang. "Well, see you later!" Joseph told his friend. "Yep." Josh replied as he hurried inside. The day past quickly, and it was time for his last subject: PE. He was really eager to go there because he was a skillful athlete. He hastily got on his shorts and rushed into the gym. As usual, Josh was there first. He always wanted to know what they were doing first. "Soccer," The coach told him. Soon, the rest of the students came pouring in through the doors. They all swarmed around the coach, wanting to know what they were doing today. As the coach explained, Josh did some warm up stretches. After everyone was informed, they all got in line and went outside. They tramped through the dead leaves. It was fall, but surprisingly quite warm. When the coach told everybody to take off their jewelry, Josh felt for his necklace. To his surprise, it wasn't there!

"Oh no, where is it?" He muttered to himself through gritted teeth. "I couldn't've taken it out, I've got to find it!" He asked the coach if he could look for something he lost in the locker room. "Sure, but do you want someone to help look for it?" Before he could speak, a voice cried out "Me! Me!" "Wilson! Him again," grumbled Josh. He didn't want to be rude, so he said okay. When they got there, they got on their knees and started crawling around the floor. Suddenly, he heard a small gasp. "Was that you,

Wilson?" Josh asked. "No, you must've imagined whatever you heard." he said quickly while stuffing his hands into his pockets. Just then, the bell rang. Wilson rushed out the door but tripped. Something gold and shiny fell out of his pocket. "My pendant! You stole it!" Josh shouted with surprise, though he had expected Wilson to do something like that. Wilson grabbed the pendant and ran like the wind. Josh bolted straight after him with no hesitation. He quickly over sped him and tackled him, thanks to his football practice. Just then, the principal, Mr. Brown, quickly sprinted over. "You two boys come to the principal's office immediately!" He said sternly. When they got there, Josh explained everything to Mr. Brown. "Well, is it true?" Mr. Brown asked Wilson. "Umm... yeah, I guess." Wilson murmured. "But that was only because he didn't show me it before school started, and he showed it to Joseph!" He quickly added, a little louder than he intended. "Give me a second to think." Mr. Brown said to them. After about 10 seconds, he said "Josh, you must write a letter of apology to Wilson." Wilson gave Josh a smirk. "As for you, Wilson," Mr. Brown said, wiping that smug look off Wilson's face. "You will be suspended for two weeks." "Wha...-but, but w-what?" Wilson protested, red faced. "Now off with you children, schools out!" said Mr. Brown ignoring Wilson as he handed me the golden pendant.

When Josh got home, his dad was angry at him. Even though he expected it, he had hoped to find him in a better mood, so he could ask some questions about the pendant. "Mr. Brown called me, and told me about what happened at school. What did you think you were doing? That thing is worth thousands! What's your version? Is it all true?" His dad chewed him out more, then after he was done, Josh flopped on his bed. Then Josh reassured his father. "Don't worry, dad. I won't ever do it again." "Are you sure?" Josh's dad asked warily. "Yes I'm sure," Josh answered. "Trust me. I've learned my lesson." "All right then. Just don't do it again. Now, where do you want to go for your birthday dinner?" His father said more calmly. "Buffalo Wild Wings will be fine. But first, let me put my necklace away!"