



Juanita and the Jar of Dreams

JESUS ARTURO HURTADO GOZME



Juanita visits a bustling weekend craft market with her family, where a vibrant ceramic coin bank catches her eye. It glimmers brightly under the sunshine, shaped like a friendly piggy wearing a tiny green scarf. She decides right then that this special bank will be the home for her very first savings goal.



Every afternoon, after finishing her homework and helping water the garden, Juanita proudly holds a shiny coin in her hand. She gently slides it into the top slot, listening happily as it drops inside with a satisfying chime. Slowly but surely, the little bank begins to feel heavier with each passing day.



While walking through town, Juanita stops in front of a toy store window and gazes at a majestic, blue-and-silver telescope. She imagines looking up at distant stars and hidden planets, wishing she could take it home right away. Though tempting to buy a smaller toy now, she remembers her plan to work toward something truly meaningful.



Back in her cozy bedroom, Juanita carefully pours her saved coins onto a soft woven blanket to count them. She discovers that while she has built a wonderful start, she still needs a little more time and patience before reaching her goal. Instead of feeling discouraged, she feels excited knowing each saved coin brings her closer to her star-filled dream.



During the annual neighborhood fair, Juanita's younger brother spends all his spare coins on sweet spun sugar and bouncy balloons within minutes. Later that evening, when a book vendor arrives selling wonderful illustrated adventure books, he realizes his pockets are completely empty. Seeing his disappointment teaches both siblings a clear lesson about impulse spending versus saving for larger goals.



Sitting together on the warm porch steps, Juanita gently shares her secrets about the magic of saving with her brother. She draws a simple chart in her notebook showing how small daily savings grow into grand rewards over time. Her brother listens intently, realizing that patience turns tiny coins into big possibilities.



Inspired by Juanita, her brother decides to start his own savings journey using a clear glass jar. Together, they break out colorful paints, decorating his jar with bright constellations and golden stars to represent his future goals. They place both jars side by side on the windowsill, glowing warmly in the afternoon light.



Weeks pass into months as Juanita stays committed to her routine, carefully choosing to save rather than spend on short-lived treats. The small coin slot glints as the final coin slides inside, making the bank completely full and heavy in her hands. She smiles brightly, knowing that her dedication and self-discipline have finally paid off.



Hand in hand with her family, Juanita proudly returns to the local shop with her full bank. The shopkeeper smiles warmly as Juanita counts out her coins to purchase the bright telescope from the window display. Wrapping the box carefully, the shopkeeper congratulates Juanita on her impressive determination and financial wisdom.



That night, Juanita sets up her shiny new telescope in the backyard under a canopy of twinkling stars. Her brother stands beside her, taking turns peering through the lens to marvel at the luminous craters of the moon. Juanita feels immensely proud, knowing that her smart choices today unlocked a world of wonder for tomorrow.