Heidi and Her Mom

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Word Lists

Vowel Patterns Spelled ei, eigh

Heidi
eight
either
neither
neigh
Keith
neighbor
receive
weight
Neil
freight

High-Frequency Words

was
clothes
to
you
said
a
would
the
one
your
from
of
there
pretty
laugh
what
Heidi was just eight years old. At times, she didn’t agree with Mom. And Mom didn’t agree with her either. But Mom was right. Heidi didn’t clean her room and left dirty clothes all over. Mom asked her to be neat and helpful. Heidi was neither.

At dinnertime, Heidi might act as if she didn’t like Mom’s cooking. She refused to eat everything. “Maybe I’ll just feed you hay,” Mom said. Heidi would just neigh like a horse. Mom would look at the ceiling and count to ten. Heidi would then eat, but not happily.
One day, Heidi’s mom was not feeling well. She had to go see Doctor Keith, so she called a neighbor to sit with Heidi. But Heidi did not take this news well.

“I’m eight years old,” said Heidi. “I don’t need a babysitter!”

But Heidi secretly felt she did.

Mom told Doctor Keith how she was feeling. He checked her out.

“Your fever is high!” said Doctor Keith. “You must stay in bed for a week or so. You must take it easy. You will need to receive help from neighbors and family.”

Mom hoped Heidi would help.
When Mom told Heidi that she was sick and needed to rest, Heidi felt bad for being so fussy lately.

“I’ll help as much as I can, Mom,” Heidi said. Then Heidi left for a bit and came back with a tray that had Mom’s lunch. “I’ll carry my weight at home from now on.”

Mom felt proud of Heidi.

Mom had to spend much time in bed. Heidi sat with her. Heidi read to Mom. She even made up silly stories to tell Mom.

“There was a boy named Neil,” began Heidi. “Neil lived on a freight train.”

“A freight train?” giggled Mom. “That’s pretty silly!”

They would laugh all day telling stories.
In a week, Mom felt much better. And Heidi had learned that it’s much better to be helpful, rather than fussy all the time. She ate all her meals and cleaned up her dirty clothes.

And even when she did not agree with Mom, she still did what Mom asked. Sick or not, Mom needed her. And Heidi needed Mom!