When Miranda woke up, she saw balloons all over her ceiling. At first she thought she was having a dream, but then she remembered. It was her eighth birthday! Miranda jumped out of bed and ran down to the kitchen. She spotted Mom.

“Morning, Mom,” said Miranda. She decided to play it cool. “Do you know why my ceiling is filled with balloons?”
Mom just smiled. “Don’t try that trick on me,” replied Mom. “You know why those are on your ceiling. It’s because you just turned eight!”

“That’s right!” beamed Miranda. “Yay! I’m eight!”

“Since it’s your birthday,” explained Mom, “you have your breakfast choice. I can make either eggs with toast, or pancakes.”

“Can’t I have both?” asked Miranda.

“Nope. It’s either one or the other,” said Mom. Then she added, “Or if you prefer, I could make neither of them. You can have cereal.”

Miranda selected eggs and toast. Then she asked Mom about her birthday party.

“What kinds of treats will we have when the neighbor kids get here?” asked Miranda.

“We’ll have hot dogs on buns, loads of cole slaw, plus cake and ice cream,” said Mom.

“Wow!” said Miranda. “I’m going to weigh a thousand pounds when this party is over. That is too much for my height! It’ll take a freight train to haul all my weight around!”

“Just be sure to say thanks for any gifts you receive,” reminded Mom.

All in all, Miranda’s birthday party was a big success!