

## Reading

Read Jasmine's story about her most unforgettable experience.

### My unforgettable experience



I will never forget my eighth birthday dinner. Mum didn't eat much and halfway through the meal she went to the toilet. When she finally came back, she was as white as a ghost. We had to go straight home. I was really disappointed. There wasn't even time to blow out the candles. I cried bitterly when I got home.

- 5 The next morning Dad said, 'There's good news and bad news.' The bad news was that Mum was in hospital. I was upset. I needed Mum to take care of me. And the 'good' news? Mum was going to have a baby. What was so good about that? The baby was making Mum ill.



- 10 The next few months were awful. I missed Mum. I felt lonely without her. I didn't see Dad much either because he was always at work or the hospital. Once he brought home a picture of the baby in Mum's tummy. I dropped the picture behind the sofa because I didn't like the baby. Dad looked everywhere for it. I felt ashamed of myself but I didn't say anything.







One Sunday Dad promised we could go to the cinema. I got ready but Dad was fast  
15 asleep on the sofa. I was really angry with him! But then I noticed his tired face and our messy  
house. I put away my things and washed all the dirty dishes. When Dad woke up, he was pleased  
with me. 'You're a big girl now,' he smiled.

A few days later, Dad took  
me to the hospital. Mum hugged me  
20 and said, 'Dad and I are so proud of  
you. Thank you for being so helpful.'  
Next to Mum's bed, a tiny, wrinkled  
baby was sleeping. My new sister!  
Dad said I could hold her but I felt a  
25 bit nervous. I sat very still as he put  
her into my arms. My sister held my  
finger tightly and it felt awesome. Getting a sister was a joyful experience. It was good news  
after all!



What did Jasmine learn from this experience?  
Have you had a similar experience?