

A LOT

A grammar play based on a Middle Eastern tale
By Carole L. Cooney

A lot : written as two words
meaning many, a good deal, a great deal, much, very much
to a considerable degree or extent

Setting: The lawn in front of Jacey's house

Characters:

Narrator

Jacey

Lucas, a friend

Ryan, a friend

Olivia, Jacey's baby sister

Narrator: One early evening, Jacey was crawling around her front lawn looking carefully through the grass. Olivia, her baby sister, was sitting on the front steps watching. Down the street, Lucas zigzagged on his skate board, then stopped in front of Jacey's house.

Lucas: Hey, Jacey. What are you doing?

Jacey: I'm looking for my key ring.

Lucas: The last time I looked, you sure had a lot of them hanging off your purse.

Jacey: I know, I know. But this is my *favorite* one. I've been out here for hours and there sure is a lot grass to look through.

Narrator: A screech of bike wheels brought Ryan toward Jacey's front yard.

Lucas: Whoa, Ryan! Where are you going?

Ryan: I was on my way to the store when I saw the two of you crawling around on the grass. What's up? Can I help?

Lucas: Well, you know Jacey has a lot of key rings. Right?

Ryan: Who doesn't know that! But, it's not a lot. It's a gazillion!

Lucas: (laughing) Well, she says she lost her *favorite* one and is out here looking for it.

Narrator: Jacy's baby sister, Olivia, started getting tired watching.

Olivia: (whiny) Jacey, I have a lot of homework and you said you'd help me. When are you going to help me?

Jacey: (annoyed) Olivia, I'll help you when I find my jeweled unicorn key ring. Go inside and start learning your *three* spelling words.

Olivia: (whining) But Jacey, that's a lot of words and I need your help.

Lucas: Hey, Jacey. I know how to speed things up. Ryan, why don't you start in the left corner and I'll take the right corner. Jacey has already looked in the center so she can look through the grass by the street.

Ryan: Hey, that sounds like a good plan to me! We sure have a lot of grass to look through. Do you think we'll finish before it gets dark?

Olivia: (crying) Jacey, I don't want to go into the house. It's scary.

Jacey: (annoyed) What do you mean, scary?

Olivia: It's too dark inside.

Lucas: Well, turn on the lights, Olivia.

Olivia: (crying harder) There are a lot of switches and I don't know which one I should turn on. *Jacey, help me!*

Ryan: Jacey, why don't you go help Olivia. Lucas and I can keep searching until we find it.

Jacey: Are you sure?

Lucas: Sure.

Jacey: All right. Come on, Olivia, let's learn those *three* spelling words.

Narrator: A half hour later, Jacey burst open the front door, waving her jeweled unicorn key chain over her head.

Jacey: I found it!

Lucas: Where?

Jacey: It was on my bureau just where I left it this morning.

Ryan: So why were you looking for it on the front lawn?

Jacey: Because, as Olivia said, it was too dark in the house. Out here, with the sun shining, it was so much easier to carry on the search.