Now Presenting...

Haste Makes Waste

Preparation is a necessary step in any job or task. Unfortunately, Alex is going to have to learn that lesson the hard way.

Characters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Narrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Turner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Wright</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

©2003 by Evan-Moor Corp.
Haste Makes Waste

Characters

Narrator
Alex
Laura

Mr. Turner
Mrs. Turner
Mr. Wright

Narrator: Alex lives at home with his family. He has a large, sunny bedroom all to himself. The problem is, he hates the color. It's too bright, and it gives him a headache. So, he's decided to repaint it himself. As he gets ready to start, his parents give him some last-minute tips and instructions.

Mrs. Turner: Do you need anything, dear?

Alex: Thanks, Mom. I think I've got everything I need. Take a good look at these old walls. You won't even recognize this place next time you see it!

Mr. Turner: Just make sure that you lay a tarp down on the floor and put sheets over the furniture.

Mrs. Turner: And don’t forget to put masking tape around the windows.

Alex: Don’t worry. I'll do a good job.

Mrs. Turner: You're sure you don't want any help?

Alex: Positive.

Mrs. Turner: All right, then. We'll be in the backyard working on the garden. Call us if you need anything. (Mr. and Mrs. Turner leave.)

Laura: (entering) Good morning, Picasso. Getting ready to paint your masterpiece?

Alex: I sure am. Wanna help me stir the paint?
Laura: Shouldn’t you have something covering the floor? And what about the furniture? You haven’t even moved it away from the wall.

Alex: I haven’t got time for all that. I want to get this finished in time to go to the movies later on today.

Laura: Remember what they say: “Haste makes waste.”

Alex: And “Time is money.” That’s another proverb for you. Speaking of which, I’d better get started. The clock is ticking!

Laura: You’d better not get paint on anything.

Alex: Don’t worry, I’ll be careful.

Narrator: Alex painted his whole room in less than two hours. He splattered paint all over the carpet in the process. At the rate he was going, it’s a wonder he didn’t get paint on the furniture too. When his parents came to check in on him, they were not amused.

Mrs. Turner: Alex, this is a disaster. Just look at this carpet!

Mr. Turner: Didn’t we tell you to put a tarp down?

Alex: Yeah, but . . .

Mr. Turner: No ifs, ands, or buts about it. We let you do this by yourself under the condition that you do it properly.

Mrs. Turner: Now what are you going to do?

Alex: It doesn’t bother me. I just won’t look at it.

Mrs. Turner: Well it bothers us, and this is our house.

Alex: I suppose I’ll have to replace the carpet. Now that I look at it, I can see that I need to tidy up the paint job on some of these walls too.

Mr. Turner: That would be the responsible thing to do.
Mrs. Turner: I guess you'll have to get a part-time job. You don't have enough money of your own to buy a new carpet.

Alex: How much does a new carpet cost?

Mr. Turner: You'll have to figure all that out yourself. Here's the telephone book.

Narrator: To Alex's great shock, he learned that it would cost over $300 to replace the carpet! Added to the cost of the paint, the whole project would come to about $400. Alex's new dilemma was how to earn all that money. His sister helped him look through the want ads in their local newspaper.

Laura: This one says they're looking for a dog-sitter.

Alex: What does a dog-sitter do?

Laura: Watch dogs, silly.

Alex: That sounds boring. Keep looking, please.

Laura: (pointing to an ad) Oh, how about this one?

Alex: (reading ad) A house painter? You must be kidding!

Laura: Well, at least you know how it's not done. You could put that on your application.

Alex: Very funny.

Laura: I don't see anything else in here. It's worth a try, Alex. I hear that house painters make good money.

Alex: Did I hear money?

Laura: As in ka-ching!

Alex: Would you hand me the telephone?
**Narrator:** Alex got an interview set up for the very next day. He was eager to show his parents that he could be responsible. The painter’s name was Mr. Wright.

**Mr. Wright:** Can you tell me what you know about painting?

**Alex:** Well, I know that preparation is half the job. You have to be sure to put something down on the floor and tape the window frames. If you don’t, you might get paint on something. And that would be a disaster.

**Mr. Wright:** Have you had any jobs before?

**Alex:** Well, not exactly . . .

**Mr. Wright:** I’m sorry, but we’re looking for somebody with some previous experience with painting and carpentry.

**Alex:** When I said that I’ve never had a job, I meant that I’d never had a paid job. I’ve actually done a lot of different jobs at home. You can ask my parents. They’ve taught me a lot about how to do things the right way.

**Mr. Wright:** Well, since you put it that way, perhaps we could make an exception. You know that this is just a part-time job through the summer, right?

**Alex:** That suits me perfectly, since I have to go back to school in September anyway.

**Mr. Wright:** All right, then. It’s settled. I’ll see how you do tomorrow.

**Narrator:** That night, Alex told his family the good news at the dinner table.

**Alex:** I gave you and Dad as my references, so Mr. Wright might call you tonight.

**Mr. Turner:** He already did, as a matter of fact. We told him that you’re a good worker who is willing to learn from his mistakes.

**Alex:** Thanks, Dad.
Laura: How much are you going to make?

Alex: I'll make $7 an hour. How long will it take me to make enough money for carpeting and paint for the room?

Mrs. Turner: Calculate it. How many hours a week will you work?

Alex: Three hours a day, five days a week. That's 15 hours a week.

Mr. Turner: Now multiply 15 hours per week by $7 an hour.

Alex: That's $105 a week. So, I can earn $420 in one month. That'll do it.

Narrator: Alex soon became a wonderful apprentice painter. After four weeks, he had enough money to buy a new carpet and the necessary supplies to repaint his room. He didn't know how to trim the carpet by himself, so he let his father help him. Alex repainted the room by himself, taking all the necessary precautions, of course!

Mrs. Turner: Your room looks lovely, Alex. I like the way the colors all go together.

Alex: I wasn't really thinking about it, but I guess you're right.

Mr. Turner: I'm proud of the way you took responsibility for your mistake, son.

Alex: I guess I learned my lesson: Haste makes waste.

Laura: Now that you've paid for the carpet and paint, are you going to quit the job, Alex?

Alex: No, I like having my own money. I'll have to quit in September when school starts, but I think Mr. Wright will hire me again next summer. I think he can use the help during the summer months, and he says he's happy with my work.

Mr. Turner: As I said when he asked, you really know how to learn from your mistakes! You've turned pain into profit!
Alex had a lot of different problems along the way, but he worked them all out. Show how he solved his problems by completing this table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problem</th>
<th>Solution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alex hates the color of his bedroom.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He doesn’t have any money.</td>
<td>He decides to pay for the carpet and paint supplies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He doesn’t know how to trim carpet.</td>
<td>He uses his parents as references.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Words from the Wise

This play has several different proverbs in it. **Proverbs** are very old sayings. They often give advice on practical matters. What do you think the proverbs below mean? Rewrite them in your own words.

1. Haste makes waste.

2. Time is money.


4. The early bird catches the worm.

5. A penny saved is a penny earned.

6. Money doesn’t grow on trees.

7. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.