

The boy ate fast, as he knew the old lady would be coming down the stairs momentarily, and if he was caught eating her food she'd probably spank him. He'd heard she was the meanest lady in the neighborhood. Quickly he devoured every morsel, and just in a nick of time too - shuffling noises were heard coming down the stairs and into the living room. He listened to her feet make their way into the kitchen. What are you doing in my kitchen so early? She snapped? The boy thought for a moment - I thought I'd get here early, just in case you needed me to go down town for something. NO! And I don't like it when you invite your self in. There's work to be done in the garden, she said. The boy slowly turned the door knob and went out into the fresh morning air. Took in a deep breath and he was glad to be away from that Crabby lady. Over against the shed lay the tools he'd need for the job. Within the hour the back door opened - The old lady was holding a tray with sandwiches & soda on it. Come get something to eat boy, you need to keep up your strength. Eagerly he made his way to where she was & with caution he accepted the food - Whats the matter boy, you don't know how to say thank you - Well I can't work manners into you. Bye the way next time you eat a bowl of Cerial in my house while I'm sleeping the least you can do is wash the bowl & clean up after your self. The boy was almost speechless - He knew lying would only cause him more embarrassment. I was hungry he said, And I didn't want to wake you. I've heard how mean you are. Me! Meant. would you consider feeding you meant? Well No! Just other kids say your the mean old lady on the block. "She smiled" Do I seem mean to you? "Not really," he said Good then clean up your tools & we'll call it a day, and can I count on you to show up tomorrow. Oh yes mam, I'm glad that your not mean & I promise to ask before I take your

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food, we don't have very much food at home & I was really hungry. The old lady leaned over to give him a hug and said, Any time your hungry - my door will be open, just let me know, okay? With that she rubbed his head & said, Then I'll see you first thing in the morning. And with that he got on his bike and rode away.

The End