NEW YEARS

Left Right Game

Every year it was the same story. I'd dress up for New Year's Eve, fill my plate with all the right snacks, play games with my family, and promise everyone that THIS would be the year I stayed up until midnight. And every year, I have failed. Last year, I made it until right before 11:00 pm. The year right before that, I barely made it past 9:30. Not this year. This year would be different. I was determined to stay awake until midnight, no matter what! When I woke up on New Year's Eve, I announced my big plan right at breakfast. "Okay, nobody let me fall asleep tonight." I told my family. My mom laughed and said, "We'll see how long you last." I spent the entire day preparing. I took a nap right after lunch, drank plenty of water, and even made a list of things to keep me awake. It included dancing, playing games, eating snacks, and absolutely NO lying down on the couch. By 6:00 p.m., our New Year's Eve party was in full swing. We had balloons hung left and right, party hats, sparkling cider, and enough snacks to feed the entire neighborhood. My cousins came over, and we played games while waiting for the big countdown. At 8:00, I had only 4 hours left, and I was feeling great. By 9:00 p.m. I was still going strong. However, once 9:30 rolled around and there were only 2 ½ hours left to go, things started to get hard. My eyes started to feel heavy, and the couch right in front of me was looking extra comfortable. "Do you want to watch a movie?" my dad asked. "NO!" I shouted right back.

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Instead, I jumped up and started dancing around the living room. My cousins joined in, and soon we were having a full-on dance party. I figured there was no way I could fall asleep while dancing. At 10:15, we made a huge batch of popcorn. There was less than two hours left until midnight. I was so close. To keep myself busy and from falling asleep, we started playing a game of charades. At 11:00, my mom announced that it was time to get our New Year's Eve hats and noisemakers ready. I had never stayed awake this long before. There was only one more hour left! I couldn't believe I had made it this far. I was starting to feel pretty sleepy, but I was determined to make it until midnight. I grabbed a handful of candy, stood up, and started pacing around the living room. At 11:30, my dad turned on the television so we could watch the countdown celebrations. Everyone gathered around, and we poured sparkling cider right into our fancy glasses. With how tired I was starting to feel, I knew the last 30 minutes left were going to be the hardest. My eyelids were getting heavier by the second. I tried everything. I stood on one foot, sang silly songs, told jokes, and even told my sister to tickle me if I started to close my eyes. Finally, the clock struck 11:59. We all jumped right to our feet and started counting. "TEN, NINE, EIGHT," I was wide awake now! "SEVEN, SIX, FIVE, FOUR, THREE, TWO, ONE! HAPPY NEW YEAR!" Confetti flew left and right, noisemakers blasted, and everyone cheered. I had finally done it! I proudly announced to my family, "I was right, I told you all this was the year!" As soon as the excitement wore off, I realized just how tired I was. Staying up until midnight was harder than I thought. I smiled, wished everyone a Happy New Year, and headed right to my bed, feeling proud that I finally made it to midnight.

-THE END-

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