

home alone (4) as **the sky got lighter**

The newspaper van came, and the men in the back dropped two bundles onto the sidewalk in _____ of us without saying a word. They didn't even bother looking up to see if there was someone to pick up the papers. I could tell they hated this part of the job. But what other part is there, I wondered. I had brought a red metal wagon _____ we wouldn't have to carry the papers in shoulder bags. I hate the _____ the strap cuts into my muscles. I cut the wires away from the newspapers with my Swiss Army Knife. As usual, the wires had cut into the papers on top and bottom. _____ think they'd find some way to tie them that wouldn't destroy them. But apparently, the people working for the post office can't _____ bothered to try and be helpful.

I started pulling the wagon down the street. Callie took one side and I took the other. I had to tell her which houses to go to, three _____ a time. She hadn't memorized the route yet. I made _____ she did everything the way Patrick wanted it done. A lot of paper boys and I guess paper girls throw the paper on the driveway or on the lawn. Some of them leave it on the front porch. But Patrick made it a rule to place _____ paper carefully behind the screen door.

**AT | BE | EACH | FRONT | HOW | MAY | OVER | RATHER | SO |
SURE | THAT'S | THEN | US | WAY | WERE | YOU'D**

Callie _____ have been slow, but she did a good job and _____ what really matters. My hands got blacker as the sky got lighter. It took longer to deliver the papers with Callie's help than when I did it myself. But _____, I wasn't trying to set any speed records. When we _____ done I asked Callie what she was going to do next. Not surprisingly, Callie wanted to go right home and back to bed. "You want to come over later?" I asked her. "Actually, I'd _____ you came over," she said.

"Ok, I will. But why don't you want _____ to hang out at our place? You don't like it there?" – "I do. It's just that my mother gets nervous if I visit somebody too much." – "What do you mean? You hardly ever come over." – "I was just _____ last night." – "I see. Will we be allowed to play with Squirrel?" – "Sure," said Callie. "As long as we can find him. He's been spending a lot of time outside." – "What time do you want me to come?" – " _____ about after lunch? I have a feeling I'm going to sleep for a long time."