

A Big Opportunity Requires Passing a Test (Part 2)

(Story words: route, encouraged)

A bus route would fit in perfectly with Carole's busy life. In rural places, school bus drivers often park their buses right on their own property so that they can start and finish their routes right from home. Talk about a nice commute! Once a week, the drivers take their vehicles into town to the firehouse where they can borrow the equipment to give their buses a deep clean. The benefits that came with the job were generous too.

Carole did not mind the idea of taking the classes required. In fact, the classes sounded quite interesting. But she did not like the idea of having to take exams.

Cynthia and Frank both encouraged Carole to try. First, Carole had a superb driving record. She always drove safely and had never been in an accident. Second, Carole

had already taken a CPR class when she had wanted to volunteer in a summer program for kids.

Carole agreed that passing the First Aid test did not sound challenging. Getting the practice hours of driving done also sounded easy because Cynthia had offered to sit in the passenger seat and be her coach during all the required practice runs. The hard part, Carole thought, might be the written exam. She would have to memorize a lot of facts about how air brakes work and how to inspect parts of a vehicle in order to know that it is safe to drive.

Frank said, “If you want to do the training, I think you should! And certainly there would be no shame in having to retake a test. You will never know if being a bus driver is the right thing for you unless you try.”

Carole thought it over. Her community really needed more bus drivers to get kids safely to school. “Who says an old dog cannot learn a few new tricks?” she told herself. She was prepared to study hard and give it her best shot.