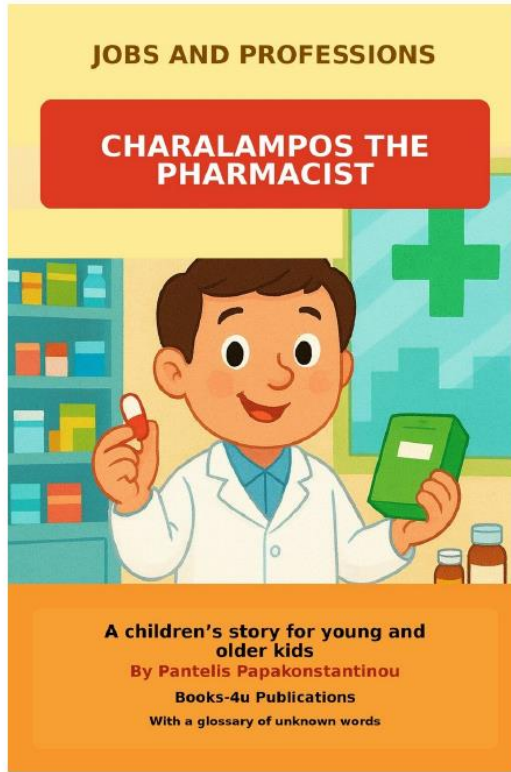


Jobs and Professions

Charalampos the Pharmacist



A children's story for young and older kids

Pantelis Papakonstantinou

Books-4u Publications – With a glossary of unknown words

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prologue	3
Charalampos the Pharmacist	5
On Duty – A Day of Responsibility	6
The Night Shift	7
Lefteris Has a Problem	9
A Mistake and a Quick Solution	11
The End of the Night	13
The Next Day and the Moral of the Story	14
Glossary of Unknown Words	15
Note for Parents, Grandparents and Teachers	17

Prologue

This story is part of a children's series with the main title "Jobs and Professions". Its purpose is to introduce children to career orientation while combining knowledge with humor and the funny side of life, making the story interesting and offering clever solutions to the problems that appear.

In all the stories, the main hero is Charalampos, and his friends Lefteris and Panagiotis also take part. Very often they change profession according to Charalampos' profession in each story.

Charalampos and his friends were inspired by the games I used to play with my grandson Marios.

Each story includes a glossary of unknown words so that young children can understand the difficult words. Unknown words are marked with an asterisk in the text, and their explanations are given later with an asterisk as well.



Charalampos the Pharmacist

Charalampos has a very important job. He is a pharmacist.

Every time he leaves for work, Charalampos hugs his two children, Giannakis and Yolanda, kisses his wife Eleni goodbye, and goes to his pharmacy. There, he serves his customers by giving them medicines prescribed by a doctor or by recommending simple medicines in emergency cases.

His profession is very important because it is connected with the health of our fellow human beings. He also offers many services, such as vaccinations, injections, dressing changes, and helping people place medicines on parts of the body they cannot reach by themselves, such as their back.



On Duty – A Day of Responsibility

Today is a duty day for Charalampos.

A duty day means that the pharmacy stays open during the hours when other pharmacies are closed. This happens by decision of the pharmacists' association, so emergency needs can be covered when the rest of the pharmacies are closed.

These hours may be at night, on weekends, or on holidays.



The Night Shift

During duty shifts, because there may be a lot of work, his friend Panagiotis comes to help. Panagiotis does simple assistant tasks, gives basic items such as alcohol, iodine and gauze, and also takes care of the cash register.

When Charalampos arrives at the shop, he removes the heavy padlock that protects the pharmacy from theft, raises the shutters with the remote control from his pocket, goes inside, turns off the alarm, switches on the air conditioner, and heads to the small kitchen to make an iced chocolate drink.

Just then, a voice is heard from the front door: “Good morning, Charalampos!” Charalampos replies, “Good morning, Panagiotis. I am making chocolate. Would you like one?”

Panagiotis appears at the door and says, “No, I will make coffee myself, because you never make it the way I like it. Besides, we have a night duty shift today.”

At eight o'clock in the evening, Charalampos unlocks the pharmacy door and waits for the customers to arrive. It is Sunday night, and he expects a busy shift because his pharmacy is the only one open in the municipality.

Soon customers begin to arrive with generally mild cases: an antibiotic, a painkiller, a medicine for allergies, and other similar needs.

Charalampos gives the medicines, while Panagiotis takes the money, enters the amount into the cash register, and gives change when needed.

Lefteris Has a Problem

At around midnight, many people arrive all at once, and Charalampos begins to feel overwhelmed. Panagiotis helps wherever he can.

Suddenly, their friend Lefteris appears in front of them. He is pale and sweaty.

"Charalampos, may I use the bathroom?" he asks. "Of course," says Charalampos.

When Lefteris comes out, Charalampos apologizes to the customer he is serving and takes his friend aside. "What is happening, Lefteris? Do you have a problem?"

"Yes," Lefteris says. "My stomach hurts, and I keep needing to go to the bathroom. What could be wrong?"

"Did you eat something outside the house that may have upset you?" asks Charalampos.

"Maybe it was the souvlaki I ate at Uncle Nikos' shop," Lefteris says. "Please give me something to make it stop. I need to go to your bathroom again!"

Charalampos the Pharmacist

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