In Mrs. Shane’s 4th grade class, students have been assigned classroom responsibilities. These responsibilities range from taking down the lunch bucket, distributing papers, and sanitizing desks after a science project. She assigned these positions by randomly choosing a popsicle stick with student’s names on them, from a jar. On a given week, Emily was assigned the position of paper distributor, while Charlie was assigned chief sanitizer. Mrs. Shane noticed that Charlie seemed unhappy when she asked him to sanitize the groups’ tables that had completed their science experiment. Charlie frowned, and did a poor job of cleaning the tables, so Mrs. Shane asked if she could speak to him after class. She explained to him that she was concerned about his attitude while taking on his classroom responsibility. So, Mrs. Shane asked, “Charlie, are you unhappy with your classroom responsibility?” Charlie said, “Yes, cleaning is a girl’s job, and I feel silly doing it!”

**What can Mrs. Shane say to Charlie to address his concerns? How does Mrs. Shane recognize Charlie’s concern, while addressing the gender bias?**

Mrs. Shane should remain calm and begin to explain that in order to have a complete and equal place (whether it is at home or at school), everybody must be willing to help whenever it is needed. While sometimes it may seem that a job is “only for girls” or “only for boys”, the truth is that boys and girls both do the same jobs all the time. There are many chefs that are boys, just like there are many girls who are firefighters or police officers. A great example and learning opportunity would include having young Charlie visit with the school’s janitor, who is often times a male. If the janitor is willing, he could have a quick chat with Charlie and explain how he cleans up after everybody in the school; the students, teachers, and principal.