

Name: _____

New Neighbors

By Kelly Hashway

Maura watched the moving van pull up to the house next door. Finally, some new neighbors. The house had stood empty for months, and Maura had been hoping a girl her age would move in.

"Mom, they're here!" she yelled.

"We'll let them get settled, and then we'll go over to say hello and welcome them to the neighborhood," Mom said.

Maura stared wide-eyed and hopeful as the moving van doors opened. But her shoulders slumped when she saw the older couple step out. "They're..."

Mom moved the curtain aside. "Probably retired. Sorry, sweetie." She squeezed Maura's shoulder. "I know you were hoping for a new friend."

Maura left the window and went to her room. She lay on her bed and stared at the ceiling, thinking about how boring the summer was going to be. She was the only kid her age in the neighborhood.

"Maura." Mom knocked on the partially open door. "I'm going next door to welcome the new neighbors. I'd like it if you came, too."

Maura didn't feel like it, but she didn't have anything better to do. Mom wrapped her arm around Maura's shoulders and gave her a gentle squeeze as they walked next door. A young girl stepped out onto the porch, bumping right into Maura.

"Sorry," she said.

Maura couldn't help smiling. The girl had to be the same age as her. "Hi. I'm Maura. Are you moving in here?"

"No. My grandparents are. I'm helping them unpack." The girl turned when her grandparents came outside. "Meet Charles and Patricia Moore. Oh, and I'm Emily."

Maura wanted to cry for the second time today. She'd hoped Emily was also moving in. "Hi,"



she said, trying to be polite.

"Emily is with us almost every weekend," Patricia said, eyeing Maura. "It looks like you two are the same age. Maybe you could show her around."

"Sure," Maura said, perking up a little.

"Great," Emily said. She leaned forward and whispered, "Could you keep an eye on my grandparents for me? We're really close, and it would mean a lot to me. They tell really great stories, too."

Maura nodded. "I can do that."

"Well, we should let you get settled," Mom said. "When you're finished, Maura and I would love to have you all over for tea and cake."

Emily's eyes widened. "Sounds great. Then Maura and I can hang out."

They said goodbye, and Maura walked home with her mom.

"Sorry they're not the neighbors you were hoping for," Mom said.

"Actually, they're kind of perfect." Maura was getting a new friend and a nice couple that told good stories. "They'll be great neighbors."

About the Author



Kelly Hashway's picture book, *Santa Bunny*, is now available!

When the Easter Bunny feels children love Santa more than him, he decides to take over the Christmas holiday. The Easter Bunny shows up on Christmas Eve to deliver baskets to all the good children, only Santa is delivering gifts, too. But little Tommy catches them and wants to know who will hide eggs on Easter? Can Tommy convince the Easter Bunny he's loved before it's too late?

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1. Maura hoped a girl her age would move in next door because...
 - a. She didn't have any friends at school.
 - b. There were lots of boys her age in the neighborhood, but no girls.
 - c. Her best friend used to live next door, but moved away.
 - d. There were no other children her age in the neighborhood.

2. What are the first and last names of the people who moved in next door to Maura?

3. How does Maura feel when she first sees the people moving in next door?
 - a. excited
 - b. disappointed
 - c. worried
 - d. angry

4. Who is Emily?
 - a. The girl that moved in next door.
 - b. A long-time friend of Maura's.
 - c. The granddaughter of the people who moved in next door.
 - d. Maura's friend from school.

5. Give two reasons why Maura was not disappointed in her new neighbors at the end of the story.

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The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.

1. _____

b o g h n e i r s

hint: people that live nearby

2. _____

t i r r e d e

hint: no longer working

3. _____

d o l e u s s r h

hint: joints on a person's body between their neck and arms

4. _____

l t e g e n

hint: not rough; careful

5. _____

e b y d g o o

hint: farewell; so long; adios

6. _____

e p l c o u

hint: two people that live together

7. _____

p a u c k n

hint: remove things from boxes, bags, or suitcases

Name: _____

Inferences

Read each paragraph and answer the questions.

Avery watched as her new next-door neighbors moved in. She observed a tall man carrying a bicycle and a kayak into the garage. She also saw a young woman carrying a surfboard through the front door.

Avery can infer that...

- a. her new neighbors are elderly.
- b. her new neighbors have several children.
- c. her new neighbors like to spend time outdoors.
- d. her new neighbors are kind and generous.

When Joseph walked into the kitchen, he saw muddy paw prints on the floor. His mother's wet coat was hanging on a chair. Below the coat he spotted his mother's rubber shoes. Joseph looked for his dog, Riley. He found Riley, who was soaking wet, lying on the couch panting.

Joseph can infer that...

- a. his mother gave Riley a bath.
- b. Riley played in the yard during a rainstorm.
- c. Riley dragged the coat outside.
- d. his mother took Riley for a walk in the rain.

Kayla made a steak dinner for her family. Her mom and dad each ate two full steaks and had large helpings of mashed potatoes. When the meal was over, everyone's plate was empty.

Kayla can infer that...

- a. her family enjoyed the meal.
- b. the steak was too well done.
- c. a steak dinner is an easy meal to make.
- d. there will be lots of leftovers.

Alexander arrived at his grandmother's house at ten o'clock at night. He saw her car in the driveway and the front door was open. The window was lit with a blue-flickering light.

Alexander can infer that...

- a. his grandmother was reading a book.
- b. his grandmother was not home.
- c. his grandmother was watching television.
- d. his grandmother was sleeping.

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Letter Mix-Up



How many words can you make by rearranging the letters in the word SUMMERTIME?

Cut out the square letter files on the second page. Re-arrange them to make as many different words as possible. Record your word list on the tables below.

3 Letter Words		4 Letter Words		5+ Letter Words	

Scoring: Give yourself 1 point for each 3-letter word.
Give yourself 2 points for each 4-letter word.
Give yourself 3 points for each word with 5 or more letters.

total points: _____