Year 3 reading comprehension: Moving Day

English · Reading comprehension
Level: Hard

Student: _____ Date: _____

Instructions
- Read the text first. There are 4 questions. Read each one carefully.
- Circle the best answer. Look back at the text to find the words that tell you.
- A grown-up can read the text aloud — that's fine.
- The answers are at the end. Check them together when you have finished.

Questions

Read this, then answer questions 1–4.

Moving Day

The removal truck had taken everything except the clock on the kitchen wall, and Hamish could hear it ticking through the empty rooms.

He wandered out to the back fence, where the old gum tree leaned over the creek. His initials were still carved in the bark, next to the mark that showed how tall he had been when he was five.

“Ready, mate?” Dad called from the car. His voice was cheerful, but he stood for a long time looking at the house before he got in.

Hamish ran his thumb along the letters. Then he picked up a smooth grey stone from the creek bed and pushed it deep into his pocket.

“The new house has a pool,” his sister Bella said, bouncing in the back seat. “And my room is twice as big!”

Hamish didn't answer. He watched the gum tree get smaller and smaller in the side mirror until the road curved and it was gone.

After a while, Dad reached back without looking and squeezed his knee.

1. How does Hamish most likely feel about leaving?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** worried about the ticking clock
- ○ **B** cross with Bella for bouncing
- ○ **C** excited about the pool at the new house
- ○ **D** sad to be leaving a place he loves

2. Hamish pushes a creek stone deep into his pocket. This suggests that he

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** is collecting stones for the new pool.
- ○ **B** plans to throw it at the removal truck.
- ○ **C** needs it to carve more letters in the tree.
- ○ **D** wants something to remember the place by.

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3. Compared with Hamish, Bella seems

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** just as sad as Hamish is.
- ○ **B** unkind, because she doesn't care about Hamish.
- ○ **C** older than Hamish.
- ○ **D** more excited about the move than sad.

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4. Which statement about Dad is best supported by the passage?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** He hides his own sadness so he can comfort his children.
- ○ **B** He doesn't care about leaving the house.
- ○ **C** He is driving the removal truck.
- ○ **D** He is impatient and wants Hamish to hurry.

Answer key

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1. D — sad to be leaving a place he loves

He ‘ran his thumb along the letters’ he carved, ‘didn't answer’ Bella, and ‘watched the gum tree get smaller and smaller’. These clues show he is sad. The pool is what Bella is excited about.

2. D — wants something to remember the place by.

He takes a stone ‘from the creek bed’ of the home he is leaving and pushes it ‘deep into his pocket’ to keep it safe. It is a keepsake. He doesn't use it to carve: he only runs his thumb along the old letters.

3. D — more excited about the move than sad.

Bella is ‘bouncing in the back seat’ and boasting that her room is ‘twice as big’. She is excited, not sad. Nothing shows she is unkind; she just feels differently.

4. A — He hides his own sadness so he can comfort his children.

Dad's ‘voice was cheerful, but’ he stood ‘looking at the house’ for a long time, so he is sad too. Then he ‘squeezed his knee’ to comfort Hamish. ‘Ready, mate?’ is one small moment, not impatience. The truck had already gone.