

A Bigger Pond

NTI 3rd Grade
Reading-Day 2

When Peter's father told him that they were moving to a new town on the other side of the country, Peter felt a mix of things inside him. He was happy for the new adventure but sad to leave his friends behind. He was excited for the new things he would see and learn but scared about what he might forget, or miss, about home. It was hard to say how he felt about it.

"Why are we moving?" Peter asked his mom at dinner the next day, after he came home from school.

"Ask your father," his mother said, looking down at her plate. Peter was surprised at how slowly Mom was eating her food. She was pushing her vegetables from one side of the plate to the other, behaving the way Peter used to when he was a little boy!

Peter's dad clattered his knife and fork onto the plate and wiped his mouth slowly with a napkin. "We're moving, Peter, because I got a better job in the new town. That means a better life for all of us."

Peter thought about this. "Better life how? What's wrong with our life now?"

"There's nothing wrong with it," his father said. "But I will make more money at the new job, and that will allow us to have a bigger house, go on more vacations, and buy a second car for your mother to use."

"Vacations like Disney World?" Peter asked.

"Yes! Like Disney World! We'll be living a lot closer to Disney World. We could go there all the time, Peter!"

Peter suddenly had an urge to eat all of his vegetables, and his mother's too, since she was taking so long to get to them. Going to Disney World was better than eating dessert every day. What fun they would have!

Two weeks later, Peter and his parents watched the last pieces of

furniture get loaded into the enormous truck. Someone was going to drive it all the way to their new address, while Mom, Dad, and Peter drove in their own car. Peter went by his favorite spot, the pond, to say goodbye. He waved farewell to his friends on their street for the last time. He promised to keep in touch and send postcards from the new place, and from Disney World. And then they were off!

Their new town was much larger and more sprawled out than where they had lived before. Peter wasn't able to walk to school anymore, so he hadn't made friends with his neighbors yet. Dad left for work before Peter woke up and came home after Peter went to bed, so he only saw him on the weekends. Mom stayed quiet. And there was no mention of Disney World for a long time. Peter felt sad.

Then, one Saturday morning, Peter woke up and saw a car missing. Where had Dad gone so early in the morning? He waited in the driveway until the car returned, his dad's face beaming from inside. He jumped out and waved at Peter.

"Where have you been?" Peter asked.

"Getting you a present for having been such a good boy these past few weeks. Do you remember the pond near where we used to live?"

"Yes," Peter said. "It was my favorite spot."

"Well, I discovered one just like it, only bigger and more beautiful, right here. And you know what? It's crawling with all kinds of fish!"

"So?" Peter said, thinking of Disney World.

"So! You're old enough now to take a shot at some fishing, young man!" Peter's dad pulled a shiny new fishing rod out of the backseat.

"Wow! Really, Dad?" Peter shouted.

"Absolutely! Go tell your mother and let's go on our first fishing trip!"

Peter rushed in and out of the house. It only took a few weeks to get the hang of the rod, and soon the new pond was his new favorite spot.

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1. Why is Peter's family moving?
 - a. Peter's mom got a new job.
 - b. Peter's dad got a new job.
 - c. They wanted to live closer to Disney World.
 - d. The family needed a new house.

2. How does Peter's mom feel about the move?
 - a. excited
 - b. worried
 - c. happy
 - d. surprised

3. Which detail from the story helped you answer question 2?
 - a. Peter asked his mom why they were moving one day when he came home from school.
 - b. Peter wanted to eat all of his vegetables and all of his mother's vegetables.
 - c. Peter's mom ate slowly and just pushed her food around on her plate when they talked about moving.
 - d. Dad said they could get a bigger home, have another car, and go on more vacations.

4. Which is **NOT** a way that Peter's new town is different from his old town?
 - a. The new town was larger.
 - b. The school in the new town was farther from home.
 - c. Peter didn't know his neighbors in the new town.
 - d. The school in the new town was closer to his house.

5. Read the following paragraph from the story:

"Their new town was much larger and more sprawled out than where they had lived before. Peter wasn't able to walk to school anymore, so he hadn't made friends with his neighbors yet. Dad left for work before Peter woke up and came home after Peter went to bed, so he only saw him on the weekends. Mom stayed quiet. And there was no mention of Disney World for a long time. Peter felt sad."

Why might Peter be feeling sad after moving to the new town?

- a. Peter wanted to go fishing.
- b. Peter had to walk to school.
- c. Peter was lonely.
- d. Peter wanted to go on vacation.

6. What lesson is Peter learning?

- a. Everyone should learn to fish.
- b. You should never move to a new town.
- c. If you want a friend, be a friend.
- d. Don't be afraid to try new things.

7. Read these sentences: *" Their new town was much larger and more sprawled out than where they had lived before. Peter wasn't able to walk to school anymore, so he hadn't made friends with his neighbors yet."*

What does the phrase "sprawled out" mean here?

- a. spread out
- b. small
- c. dirty
- d. laying down

8. How does Peter feel about going fishing at the end of the story?
- a. excited
 - b. lonely
 - c. scared
 - d. mad
9. Which detail from the story helped you answer question 8?
- a. Dad said, "Go get your mother and we'll go fishing."
 - b. Dad said he found a big pond full of fish nearby.
 - c. "Wow! Really, Dad?" Peter shouted.
 - d. "So?" Peter said, thinking of Disney World.
10. Which of these is the best summary of the story?
- a. Peter's family was moving across the country to a new town because his dad got a new job.
 - b. Peter was happy again when he found a new favorite pond and could go fishing with his dad.
 - c. Peter was sad and lonely for a while in the new town.
 - d. Peter's family was moving to a new town because his dad got a new job. He was sad and lonely for a while but was happy again when he found a new favorite pond and could go fishing with his dad.