

Lesson 8

Making Inferences

Directions

Read this story about a boy named Sunil. Then answer questions 1 through 6.

New Neighbors

Sunil kicked a rock across the driveway. He was thinking about his old home. A few weeks ago, his family had moved from the big city to the small town of Centersville. That was because his mom had gotten a great new job there. Sunil missed his old friends and thought this new place was too quiet.

"Sunil, where have you been?" his mom called from the front door.

"I'm sorry," he said, walking inside. Tonight they were having a special supper for the Indian New Year. Sunil had told his mom he would help get things ready.

"Mom said Debbie Sue can come tonight," Sunil's sister, Savita, said happily.

"I'm glad you have a friend so fast," Sunil said. But his heart felt like the stone he had been kicking.

"You'll make friends, too, Sunil," Mrs. Patel said. "Why don't you invite someone over now? How about the Matthews brothers who live down the road?"

Sunil had seen Bobby Matthews riding his bike to school and sitting with a bunch of guys at lunch. Bobby's brother, Tom, was usually with them.

Sunil felt a little nervous about calling. But he gave it a try. To his surprise, Bobby and Tom said they would love to come.

At 7:00, all the guests arrived. Sunil didn't have to worry about what to say. His mom and sister talked a lot. His dad asked everybody questions.

"Mmmm, this is delicious," Tom said, slurping his lentil soup.



"Please, have some more," said Mrs. Patel. "You can dunk your bread in it. It's good that way." She showed Tom how to sop up the soup with the Indian bread.

"This bread is a little like pancakes," Bobby said.

Time passed quickly. Soon the guests were ready to leave. "I hope Savita can come to my

(continued)



house next Friday night,” Debbie Sue said, as the two girls hugged good-bye.

The Matthews brothers stood up. “Thank you for the great dinner,” they said. “Hey, Sunil, we are cleaning out our barn tomorrow. Then our dad is going to cook a big lunch. Can you come?”

“Sure,” said Sunil.

Sunil helped his family clean up after the dinner. Suddenly, he felt very happy. He was glad to have new neighbors. Maybe they would all become good friends.

1 According to the story, why did Sunil’s family move to a different location?

- A** His parents wanted to live somewhere quiet.
- B** His mom was offered new employment.
- C** His parents wanted their children to make friends.
- D** His dad thought it was a good opportunity.

hint ➞ The word “location” means “place.”

2 Read this sentence from the middle of the story.

**But his heart felt like the stone
he had been kicking.**

The author uses this description to illustrate that Sunil felt

- F** exhausted
- G** sympathetic
- H** miserable
- J** ignorant

hint ➞ The words “to illustrate” mean “to show.”

3 Which statement is supported by information in the story?

- A** Savita is a very good cook.
- B** Sunil likes to spend time on his own.
- C** Tom and Bobby have eaten Indian food before.
- D** Sunil feels hopeful that he will be friends with his neighbors.

hint ➞ The phrase “is supported by information” means “is true” in the story.

Go On

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INDEPENDENT PRACTICE AND REFLECTION

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