

The Summer Cabin

Story By: Judie Eberhardt

School was out, and the Johnson family was getting ready to take their annual summer trip to Lake Horizon. Betsy and her brother Bruce were excited, but not mom and dad. "I wonder why mom and dad are not excited about going to the lake." Betsy asked Bruce. "I heard mom and dad talking last night, and they were saying how much repair the summer cabin needs because it is getting old." "They are thinking about selling it, but it needs a lot of work," said Bruce. "Selling it!" exclaimed Betsy. "That would be horrible."



The next day, Bruce had an idea. "What if we help mom and dad paint, pull the weeds, and scrub the deck?" asked Bruce. "Then the cabin wouldn't look so bad, and we could probably keep it." Betsy thought it was a great idea. They decided to tell mom and dad their plan. "That sounds like it would work," said dad. "With some nice fresh paint, the cabin would really look nice." "We could plant a few new shrubs and flowers out front too," said mom.

That night, they went to the local hardware store and bought the supplies they would need to start working on the cabin. They left early the next morning and were at the cabin before lunch. They started painting the small kitchen first, then the bedrooms, and finally the family room. "Wow!" said mom. "This looks like a brand new cabin." After a day of painting, the following day was spent cleaning the deck by mom and dad. The kids worked on the pulling of weeds and planted some new flowers of red and white around the maple tree.

After two days of hard work, mom and dad agreed that the cabin was now looking so much better. Dad told mom a new refrigerator would do the trick in the kitchen. "With a few more minor changes, this cabin will really look great," said dad. "Does that mean you won't sell it?" asked Betsy. "That's right," said dad. "Thanks to your great idea, we can keep our summer cabin." "Tomorrow we are saving for swimming in the lake," said mom. "No work." The kids cheered, and everyone was now happy to be at Lake Horizon!

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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What was the name of the lake?
 - A. Lake Livingston
 - B. Lake Horizon
 - C. Clear Lake
 - D. Whispering Lake
2. How would you describe mom and dad at the **beginning** of the story?
 - A. Tired
 - B. Bored
 - C. Unexcited
 - D. Happy
3. What is one chore that was done at the cabin?
 - A. Pulling weeds
 - B. Changing light bulbs
 - C. Emptying trash
 - D. Doing laundry
4. What room was painted first?
 - A. Family room
 - B. Bedrooms
 - C. Kitchen
 - D. Bathroom
5. How was everyone feeling at the end of the story?
 - A. Happy
 - B. Grumpy
 - C. Sad
 - D. None of the above

The Summer Cabin – Answer Key

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