

First Train Ride

Story By: Judie Eberhardt

Twins, Laura and Lilly, were ten years old. Their mom had passed away last year, and dad was left to raise the girls alone. Some days being both mom and dad were a breeze, but there were days when dad would say to himself, *how do I handle this?* Then, the unthinkable happened. Dad lost his job at the factory. He didn't know what he was going to do, and he didn't know what to tell the twins.



Dad called his older sister who lived out of state. "What am I going to do with the girls being home all summer from school?" he asked his sister. "I can't leave them alone, and I need to spend all my time trying to get work." His sister said, "Why don't you send the girls to my house for the summer?" "I can spend time with them, and you can spend time finding a job." "Gee, I don't know," said dad. "The whole summer away from Laura and Lilly will be tough." "Let me ask the girls, and I'll call you back."

That night, Dad told the twins about his job, and that Aunt Nancy invited them to spend the summer at her house in Michigan. "Wow," said Lilly. "At least it will be warm there this time of year." "We will miss you dad," said Laura. "I will miss you both too," said dad. "I can't leave you alone, and daddy needs to find work in order to take care of you both." "We understand," said the girls. That night the girls spoke to Aunt Nancy on the phone, and it was all settled. They would spend the summer with her. There was one thing exciting for them. They were going to take their first train ride.

Two days later, dad took the girls to the train station and spoke to the people in charge of the train ride to Michigan. They said they would take good care of the girls on the trip. When they arrived, Aunt Nancy was there to pick them up. They called dad that night to let him know they were okay. "We miss you!" said the girls.

One month passed, and dad called Aunt Nancy with fantastic news. He had found a job and would be starting in two weeks. "I think I'll come and visit since I have two weeks until the new job," said dad. They were finally all together before it was time to return home. "What a wonderful summer it turned out to be!" said dad. "It sure is," said the girls hugging dad.

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

1. How old were the twins?
 - A. Six
 - B. Eight
 - C. Ten
 - D. Twelve

2. Where did dad work?
 - A. A factory
 - B. A school
 - C. An office
 - D. On a farm

3. Who were the twins going to visit?
 - A. Uncle Jim
 - B. Aunt Helen
 - C. Aunt Nancy
 - D. Grandma

4. What state were the twins going to?
 - A. Minnesota
 - B. Montana
 - C. Missouri
 - D. Michigan

5. Why were the twins excited about their trip?
 - A. They were going on a bus for the first time.
 - B. They were going on a train for the first time.
 - C. They were going on an airplane for the first time.
 - D. The story doesn't tell why they were excited.

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