

Gray Skies

Story By: Judie Eberhardt

The Christmas holidays were over, and it was time to head back to school after two weeks of vacation. It sure was hard for Alex to get out of bed that Monday. "I can't believe vacation is over," said Alex to his mom.

"Why does vacation always go by so fast?" Alex asked his mom. "I guess because you were having fun and no homework to worry about," said mom.

School was going okay except every day it rained, and the class was not able to play outside for recess. Even when Alex got home, it was still gray and rainy. Alex liked to do something when he got home from school before he started his homework. After three days of rain and gloomy skies, Alex decided that after school since he couldn't play outside, he would go to the home for elderly people. He thought to himself, *they never get to go outside even when the sun is shining. Maybe I can cheer some of them up.* He told his mom what he wanted to do. "That's a lovely idea Alex," said mom. "I'm sure the people would love to have some company."

Alex went to the Oakville Senior Home the next day. He went into the activity hall and played board games with some people, and he even read a story to some of them from his reading book. Alex enjoyed meeting and talking with the people from the home so much, he decided one day each week he would go and visit with them. The people thanked Alex for spending his time with them. "It's so nice to talk to some younger people," said Mrs. Wilson who was 85 years old. "It's fun to hear stories from the younger generation," said Mrs. Johnson. Alex found out she was 90 years old. "Mom, I had a great time visiting with Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Johnson." "They had some great stories of their own about when they were my age." "I think what you did today was very special," said his mom. "If it weren't for those gray skies, I may not have gone to the Oakville Senior Home," said Alex. "I'm sure glad I did though!"



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

1. Alex was home for two weeks because of which holiday?
 - A. Christmas
 - B. Thanksgiving
 - C. Easter
 - D. Spring break

2. Why didn't Alex get to play outside?
 - A. There was too much snow.
 - B. He was sick.
 - C. It was raining.
 - D. He had a broken leg.

3. What did Alex decide to do after school?
 - A. Go to the movies
 - B. Go to his neighbor's house
 - C. Go to the park
 - D. Go to Oakville Senior Home

4. How old was Mrs. Johnson?
 - A. 90
 - B. 80
 - C. 82
 - D. 78

5. How would you describe mom's feelings about what Alex did?
 - A. Proud
 - B. Angry
 - C. Disappointed
 - D. Sad

Gray Skies– Answer Key

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