

“The New School”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.

Tracey is starting a new school today.

She is very sad. She is very scared.

“I don’t want to go to school today,” Tracey tells her dad.

“I understand, sweetheart,” Dad says. “Starting a new school can be very scary.”

Tracey has moved to a new town. She has moved to a new house. She is starting a new school today. She has done all of this in a week!

“I feel sick,” Tracey says. “My stomach hurts. I can’t eat breakfast.”

“I think that is because you are **nervous**,” Dad says. He pats Tracey’s hair. He gives her a little hug. “Try drinking just a little juice. Then I will walk you to school.”

Tracey and her dad walk to school.

Tracey thinks about many things.

Will I make friends?

Will I like my teacher?

What if I don’t know the answer to a question?

Will kids laugh at me?

What if no one likes me?



“We’re here,” says Dad.

Tracey looks up at the big building. Her other school was small.

Tracey wishes she could run away.

She knows she cannot.

She takes a deep breath.

She walks up the steps to school.

She walks into her third grade classroom.

“That must be Tracey,” she hears a boy say.

“Hello, Tracey!”

“Welcome, Tracey!”

“Let me show you around.”

Everyone seems kind. Tracey feels a little better.

But she is still not happy. She is still a little scared. She cannot eat her lunch.

Dad picks Tracey up after school.

"How was your day?" he asks.

"Okay," she says.

"It will get better," Dad says. "Big changes are hard."

"I know," says Tracey. She reaches for her dad's hand to hold as they walk home.

Questions:

1) Why is Tracey sad and scared?

- A. She is moving to a new house today.
- B. She is moving to a new town today.
- C. She is starting a new school today.
- D. She is walking to school alone today.

2) What has Tracey done during the week?

- I. made a new friend
- II. moved to a new town
- III. moved to a new house

- A. I only
- B. I and II
- C. II and III
- D. I, II, and III

3) What grade is Tracey in?

- A. second grade
- B. third grade
- C. fourth grade
- D. fifth grade

4) Why can't Tracey eat breakfast?

- I. She is nervous.
- II. Her stomach hurts.
- III. She is late for school.

- A. I only
- B. I and II
- C. II and III
- D. I, II, and III

5) Why does Tracey's dad think she feels sick?

- A. because she is sleepy
- B. because she is nervous
- C. because she has a cold
- D. because she ate too much

6) As used at the beginning of the story, what does **nervous** mean?

- A. to be happy
- B. to be hungry
- C. to be mad
- D. to be scared

Questions (continued):

7) What does Dad tell Tracey to do before school?

- A. stop crying
- B. get her bag
- C. drink some juice
- D. put on her shoes

8) How do Tracey and Dad get to school?

- A. They drive.
- B. They walk.
- C. They run.
- D. They take the bus.

9) What does Tracey think about most as she walks?

- A. her math test
- B. answering questions
- C. having friends
- D. her teachers

10) When does Tracey seem to be brave?

- A. when she cannot eat
- B. when she feels better
- C. when she holds her dad's hand
- D. when she walks up the steps to the school

11) What is Tracey's new school like?

- A. big
- B. dirty
- C. loud
- D. small

12) How do the children in Tracey's class seem?

- A. kind
- B. smart
- C. funny
- D. different

Have you ever felt nervous about doing something new? Explain.
