

Name: _____

Mini-Vacation

by Kelly Hashway

Lauren sat on her front porch, staring at her neighbors across the street. They were packing their car for their yearly vacation to Florida. Lauren wished her family would take vacations. But every summer it was the same thing—sitting at home and wishing she had a pool or that she was anywhere but here.



“What’s up, Laur?” her brother, Mark, asked, sitting next to her.

“Nothing.”

“Then why are you glaring at the Sandersons?”

“I’m wishing my last name was Sanderson. Then I’d be on my way to Florida instead of sitting here for another boring summer.” Lauren watched as the family piled into the car. Even their little terrier, Shamus, was going along for the trip. “Look, the dog gets a vacation, but I don’t.”

“Stop feeling sorry for yourself. You know Mom and Dad can’t get time off work like Mr. and Mrs. Sanderson can. And don’t go sulking around Mom and Dad, either. You’ll just make them feel bad.” Mark stood up and went to shoot hoops in the driveway.

Lauren stared after the blue car leaving the block, carrying the Sandersons to paradise.

“Wishing that was you?” Dad asked, coming out of the house.

Lauren jumped. Mark had said not to mention it, but Lauren couldn’t lie to her dad’s face. “A little.”

Dad sat down on the porch. "Tell you what. I think I could rearrange my schedule and take a long weekend. We wouldn't be able to go anywhere far like Florida, but we could go to Cape May. It's only about three hours from here."

Lauren's face lit up. "Really?"

"Keep in mind it will only be a long weekend," Dad said. The Sandersons were always gone for two weeks.

"But we'd get to go to the beach, right? Go swimming, shopping, walking on the boardwalk?"

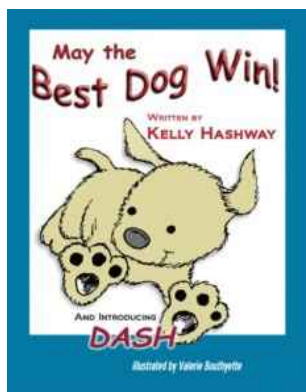
"Sure. What do you think?" Dad looked hopeful. Lauren knew he was doing this for her.

"Is it really okay for you to take time off?"

Dad leaned close and whispered, "Between you and me, I was kind of wishing I could stow away with the Sandersons too. But since they're already gone, I guess we can settle for a mini-vacation. That is if you won't be too disappointed."

Lauren smiled. She and her dad were a lot alike. "I think it sounds like the greatest mini-vacation ever."

About the Author



Kelly Hashway's latest book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

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1. Who is Mark?
 - a. Lauren's neighbor from across the street.
 - b. Lauren's best friend.
 - c. Lauren's brother.
 - d. Lauren's father.

2. According to the information in the story, why doesn't Lauren's family go on vacation often?

3. Mark told Lauren not to sulk in front of her mother and father. What does the word sulk mean?
 - a. treat people badly
 - b. to make someone feel bad
 - c. to beg for something you can't have
 - d. to act gloomy and disappointed

4. Why did Mark tell Lauren not to sulk in front of her parents?

5. Lauren's dad said, "Between you and me, I was kind of wishing I could stow away with the Sandersons."
What do the words "stow away" mean?
 - a. to follow someone who is traveling long distances
 - b. to ask someone to invite you along on a trip
 - c. to pay someone for a ride to a faraway place
 - d. to hide in a car, ship, train or plane so you can get a free trip

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Match each vocabulary word from the story to the correct definition.

_____ 1. terrier

_____ 2. sulking

_____ 3. hoops

_____ 4. paradise

_____ 5. rearrange

_____ 6. cape

_____ 7. schedule

_____ 8. boardwalk

a. plans to do things at specific times

b. sidewalk made of wood, often by a beach

c. area of land that juts into the sea

d. move or change something

e. small breed of dog

f. slang word meaning *basketball*

g. place where everything is perfect

h. acting quiet and gloomy

◆ **Now try this:** Write three sentences on your own. In each sentence, use one of the vocabulary words above.

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