

Name: _____



Big Cousin, Big Responsibility

By Kelly Hashway

Charla sat on her Aunt Monica's front porch swing and stared at the birds perched in the big oak tree on the lawn.

"Lucky birds, you can fly to the beach. I have to stay here all day and work."
Charla was visiting Aunt Monica for the

week, helping her around the house.

Aunt Monica was eight months pregnant, and since Charla was on spring break, her mother thought it would be nice to help Aunt Monica set up the house for the new baby. Charla

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wasn't happy about it though. Monica was her favorite aunt, and now she'd have to share her with a new baby.

"What are you doing out here?" Aunt Monica asked, stepping onto the porch.

"Getting some fresh air." Charla had been helping Aunt Monica paint the baby's room all morning.

Aunt Monica took a deep breath. "It smells like spring. Hey, how about we go for a walk?"

Charla looked at Aunt Monica's big belly. "Are you sure you're up for it?"

"Yeah, it's good for me. Come on."

Charla and Aunt Monica always took walks together. The beach was only about a mile away, but Charla wondered if that was too far for Aunt Monica now.

They headed down the road and to the end of the development. Charla wanted to turn right like they usually did, but she hesitated. "We can turn back if you want."

Aunt Monica shook her head. "To the beach."

It took longer than usual, but they made it to the beach. Charla sat down on the swings at the playground, and



Aunt Monica did the same.

"I really appreciate all your help getting ready for the baby."

Charla forced a smile. She wanted to be happy about having a new cousin but she felt like she was losing her favorite aunt.

"You know, I'm going to need even more help after the baby arrives."

Charla's eyes widened as she thought about changing dirty diapers.

"You're the greatest kid I know, and I'd love it if you taught your new cousin all about birds and the beach. In fact, I'd like you to help me think of a name for her, too."

"Help name the new baby? Really? That would be great," Charla said, already making a mental list of her favorite names.

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1. Why did Charla and her mother go to visit Aunt Monica?
 - a. They went to see Aunt Monica's baby.
 - b. They wanted to go for a walk with Aunt Monica.
 - c. They wanted to ask Aunt Monica an important question.
 - d. They went to help Aunt Monica prepare for the arrival of her baby.
2. During which month might this story take place?
 - a. January
 - b. August
 - c. October
 - d. March

Tell how you figured out the answer to the question above.

3. Aunt Monica and Charla walked...
 - a. to the beach
 - b. to the store
 - c. to school
 - d. to the hospital
4. Think about the following sentence from the story and answer the question.

She wanted to be happy about having a new cousin but she felt like she was losing her favorite aunt.

What does this sentence mean?

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Big Cousin, Big Responsibility



Match each vocabulary word on the left with the correct definition on the right. Write the letter on the line provided.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. ____ perched | a. in the mind |
| 2. ____ favorite | b. mother or father's sister |
| 3. ____ breath | c. aunt or uncle's son or daughter |
| 4. ____ appreciate | d. inhale or exhale |
| 5. ____ cousin | e. paused before saying or doing something |
| 6. ____ aunt | f. stood on |
| 7. ____ hesitated | g. to be grateful |
| 8. ____ mental | h. most liked |

❖ **Now try this:** Find all of the words above in the story and highlight them.

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Big Cousin, Big Responsibility



In the story, "Big Cousin, Big Responsibility," Charla and her mother visit Aunt Monica to help prepare the house for Aunt Monica's new baby.

They help paint the baby's bedroom. Describe some of the other things that have to be done to prepare for a new baby's arrival.

This image shows a single page from a notebook or ledger. It features ten evenly spaced horizontal blue lines across its entire width. The top edge of the page has a small tab-like cutout. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

ANSWER KEY

Big Cousin, Big Responsibility

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1. Why did Charla and her mother go to visit Aunt Monica?
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2. During which month might this story take place?
 - a. January
 - b. August
 - c. October
 - d. March**

Tell how you figured out the answer to the question above.

In the story, it says Charla is on spring break. January, August, and October are not spring months.

3. Aunt Monica and Charla walked...
 - a. to the beach**
 - b. to the store
 - c. to school
 - d. to the hospital

4. Think about the following sentence from the story and answer the question.

She wanted to be happy about having a new cousin but she felt like she was losing her favorite aunt.

What does this sentence mean?

The sentence means Charla is worried that her aunt may not be able to spend as much time with her. She is happy that she will have a new cousin, but she doesn't want to lose the close relationship she has with her aunt.

ANSWER KEY

Big Cousin, Big Responsibility



Match each vocabulary word on the left with the correct definition on the right. Write the letter on the line provided.

1. f perched

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