

Name: _____

A Grandma to All

By Kelly Hashway



Tamara was so excited she practically skipped into class. It was Friday, her favorite day of the week, but it was also the day she was going to her grandmother's house. Tamara was sleeping over for the whole weekend. Her grandmother lived on a horse farm, and Tamara loved going riding with her.

"You seem happy," Darla said, as Tamara sat in the seat next to her.

"I am. My grandma's picking me up after school. We're going to have so much fun this weekend. We're going to ride horses and bake cookies. Oh, and she has an awesome rec room with a big screen TV and tons of books and games. I can't wait."

Darla opened her math book and took out her homework, ignoring Tamara.

Tamara tried to ask her what was wrong, but Mr. Peterson started the lesson.

At lunchtime, Tamara sat down next to Darla. "I forgot to tell you that my grandma said one of the horses had a baby. I'm going to help take care of it."

Darla picked up her lunch and moved to another table without saying a word.

Tamara turned to Jessica. "What's wrong with her?"

Jessica leaned closer to Tamara and whispered, "She doesn't have a grandmother anymore."

"She doesn't?" Tamara wrinkled her forehead.

"No. Her grandma passed away last year. They were really close, and Darla took it pretty hard."

"I didn't know that." Tamara felt awful about going on and on about her own grandmother when Darla was missing hers. She stood up and walked over to Darla. Darla started to get up, but Tamara said, "Wait. I want to apologize."

Darla sat back down.

"I didn't know about your grandma. I'm really sorry. I had no idea it was upsetting you when I was talking about my plans for the weekend."

Darla shrugged and looked like she was about to cry. "I'm sorry, too. It's not your fault. I'm glad you still have a grandma to spend time with."

Tamara wanted to make Darla feel better and she had an idea how to do it. "Hey, I don't think my grandma would mind if you came along for the weekend."

"Really?" Darla's face lit up.

"Yeah. I'm always telling her about you. She said she'd love to meet you one day, so why not this weekend?"

"Thanks, Tamara. I'd love that."

After school, Tamara's grandmother met them in the office. "Who's this?" she asked Tamara.

"Grandma, this is my friend Darla. I was wondering if she could come for the weekend, too."

Grandma smiled at Darla. "Tamara has told me so much about you. I'd love to have you visit this weekend, if it's okay with your parents."

"Thanks," Darla said as she let out a small smile.

"On one condition. I only answer to Grandma. Is that okay with you?"

Darla's smile widened. "Sounds good to me, Grandma."



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1. What fun things does Tamara plan to do at her grandmother's house over the weekend?

2. How did Darla feel in the beginning of the story, when Tamara talked about her grandma? (Circle the best answer.)

upset

excited

cheerful

confused

Why did Darla feel this way?

3. Why is Jessica an important character in this story?
- a. She convinces Darla to talk to Tamara.
 - b. She is Darla's only friend.
 - c. She is Tamara's sister.
 - d. She tells Tamara why Darla is ignoring her.
4. Before she visits with Tamara's grandma, Darla must...
- a. learn to ride a horse
 - b. ask her parents for permission
 - c. bring Jessica along
 - d. finish her homework
5. Why does Tamara's grandmother say, "I only answer to grandma."?
- a. She doesn't want Darla to know her real name.
 - b. She wants Darla to feel like a member of the family.
 - c. She wants Darla to think about her real grandma more often.
 - d. She wants more grandchildren.

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Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the story. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.



1. ___ r a ___ t i c ___ l l y

clue: almost; nearly

1. _____

2. ___ w ___ s o ___ e

clue: amazing

2. _____

3. ___ o r ___ e a ___

clue: area of the head above the eyebrows

3. _____

4. ___ p s ___ t ___ n g

clue: making a person feel angry

4. _____

5. w ___ d ___ r i ___ g

clue: wanting to know

5. _____

6. ___ o n ___ i t ___ o n

clue: rule; limitation

6. _____

7. ___ e e ___ e ___

clue: Saturday and Sunday

7. _____

ANSWER KEY

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1. What fun things does Tamara plan to do at her grandmother's house over the weekend?

She plans to ride horses and bake

cookies. (Also accept: watch tv, read books, and play games)

2. How did Darla feel in the beginning of the story, when Tamara talked about her grandma? (Circle the best answer.)

upset

excited

cheerful

confused

Why did Darla feel this way?

She feels upset because her grandmother died.

3. Why is Jessica an important character in this story?

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1. p r a c t i c a l l y

clue: almost; nearly

1. practically

2. a w e s o m e

clue: amazing

2. awesome

3. f o r e h e a d

clue: area of the head above the eyebrows

3. forehead

4. u p s e t t i n g

clue: making a person feel angry

4. upsetting

5. w o n d e r i n g

clue: wanting to know

5. wondering

6. c o n d i t i o n

clue: rule; limitation

6. condition

7. w e e k e n d

clue: Saturday and Sunday

7. weekend