

TEXT 1 — STORY

Questions 1–5

The Doorframe

The house felt strange without furniture. Every sound echoed: Mum's footsteps, the click of the light switch, even Kiri's sigh. Boxes stood in stacks along the hallway, each one labelled in Dad's square handwriting: KITCHEN, BOOKS, KIRI'S ROOM. Tomorrow, the removal truck would arrive, and the only home Kiri had ever known would belong to somebody else.

She wandered into her bedroom and sat on the bare floor. Pencil marks climbed the doorframe, showing how tall she had been at every birthday. Kiri traced the highest line with her finger. "I don't want to go," she whispered to nobody.

Dad appeared in the doorway with a screwdriver in his hand. "I know," he said gently, as if she had spoken to him. "Leaving is hard. But look." He took a small saw from his toolbox and carefully cut a thin strip of wood from the doorframe, right along the pencil marks. "This is coming with us."

On the first night in the new house, the family ate fish and chips on the floor, surrounded by unopened boxes. The walls were a dull yellow, and the windows looked out onto a street that Kiri did not know. She felt hollow, as if she had left a piece of herself behind.

Later, Dad screwed the strip of wood onto the doorframe of her new bedroom. Kiri stood against it, and he drew a fresh line above her head. It was a little higher than the last one. "That's the first mark in this house," he said. Kiri looked at the line, and for the first time that day, she smiled.

1. What did Dad take with him from the old bedroom?

- A the wooden bed that Kiri had slept in
- B a box of the cards from her birthdays
- C the silver key to the old front door
- D a strip of the doorframe with height marks

2. In the fourth paragraph, the word "hollow" suggests that Kiri felt

- A full and quite heavy
- B warm and very safe
- C calm and rather proud
- D empty and sad inside

3. Why did Dad cut a strip of wood from the doorframe?

- A He knew the marks held memories for Kiri.
- B He wanted to repair the damage before leaving.
- C He thought the new doorframe was too weak.
- D He planned to burn it in the new fireplace.

THE WORKED ANSWERS TO THOSE 3 QUESTIONS

1. What did Dad take with him from the old bedroom? [Detail]

Correct answer: D — a strip of the doorframe with height marks

- What is the question asking? It asks for a fact that the text states.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: “carefully cut a thin strip of wood from the doorframe, right along the pencil marks”
- The third paragraph says Dad cut the strip with the pencil marks.
- So the correct answer is D (a strip of the doorframe with height marks).
- Why the other options are wrong:
 - A (the wooden bed that Kiri had slept in): Dad cut a strip from the doorframe.
 - B (a box of the cards from her birthdays): Dad cut a strip from the doorframe.
 - C (the silver key to the old front door): Dad cut a strip from the doorframe.

LOS: Reading: finding information stated in the text

KEY TAKEAWAY

Go back to the text and find the exact words that answer the question, then match them to an option.

2. In the fourth paragraph, the word “hollow” suggests that Kiri felt [Vocab]

Correct answer: D — empty and sad inside

- What is the question asking? It asks what a word means in this text.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: “She felt hollow, as if she had left a piece of herself behind.”
- A hollow feeling is an empty, sad feeling.
- So the correct answer is D (empty and sad inside).
- Why the other options are wrong:
 - A (full and quite heavy): ‘Hollow’ means empty.
 - B (warm and very safe): ‘Hollow’ means empty.
 - C (calm and rather proud): ‘Hollow’ means empty.

LOS: Reading: understanding word meaning in context

KEY TAKEAWAY

Reread the sentence, put each option in place of the word, and see which one still makes sense.

3. Why did Dad cut a strip of wood from the doorframe? [Inference]

Correct answer: A — He knew the marks held memories for Kiri.

- What is the question asking? It asks what the clues in the text show.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: "This is coming with us."
- Dad understood how much the height marks meant to Kiri.
- So the correct answer is A (He knew the marks held memories for Kiri).
- Why the other options are wrong:
- B: The marks matter to Kiri, not to the repair.
- C: The text does not say this.
- D: The text does not say this.

LOS: Reading: working out what the text suggests

KEY TAKEAWAY

When the text does not say it directly, use the clues it gives, then ask: what must be true?

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