

6 FUNKERELLA

by *Cathy Baker*

Funkerella is sitting in the kitchen, playing Nintendo. Her mother, Marian, enters.

Marian: Ah, Funkerella.

Funkerella: What is it, Mum?

Marian: I'm divorcing your father...

Funkerella: What?!

Marian: And I'm off to Los Angeles to have a fabulcus time.

Funkerella: Cool! When do we pack?

Marian: Sorry, dear, your father won custody. Goodbye.

Salmonella enters, with Pneumonia and Listeria

Salmonella: Good morning!

Funkerella: Good morning. Erm, who are you?

Salmonella: I am the Lady Salmonella, new wife of the Baron Boring.

Funkerella: But he's my father!

Salmonella: And my husband.

Funkerella: You mean...?

Salmonella: Yes, I do. I'm your stepmother. And, of course, my two daughters, Pneumonia and Listeria, are much better than you.

Funkerella: That's not fair!

Salmonella: You can just start cleaning the house: here's the Fairy Liquid.

Funkerella: But Mum!

Salmonella: No buts.

Funkerella: But slavery's illegal! Under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights!

Salmonella: I said, no buts.

Funkerella: (in desperation) Article 4!

A few days later, in the palace of the Principality of X. Queen Xanthe, King Xavier and prince Groovy are talking.

Groovy: Look, Mum, I really can't marry any of these silly princesses. One of them was nine years old!

Xanthe: We have to find you a bride before you're twenty-one-and-a-half, or the principality goes to your cousin in Australia.

Groovy: No!

Xavier: I thought that would get him going.



Groovy: But, we still have lots of time.

Xanthe: We have not. You were twenty-one yesterday.

Xavier: I don't see what was wrong with that girl you rescued from the hundred-year sleep.

Groovy: She thought Boyzone was still Number One!

Groovy looks at a pop magazine, puts it down and walks around the room.

Xavier picks up the magazine.

Xavier: This magazine gave me an idea. Why don't we have a disco?

Xanthe: Is that one of those things Groovy likes?

Xavier: Yes, dear.

Xanthe: A brilliant idea! Ask the Royal Listmaker to invite all the women between sixteen and forty.

Groovy: Forty? Make it twenty-five!

Xanthe: Forty it will be.

Xavier: Of course, we could choose a bride for you...

Groovy: But Dad!

Xanthe: No buts! A Bride-Choosing Disco it will be.

Ten days later, Funkerella is clearing the breakfast. Pneumonia picks up seven letters which arrive.

Pneumonia: Three bills for the Baron, something for Mum... one for me... one for you... and one for Funkerella. Wow! The Prince is inviting me to his disco. He wants to choose a bride!

Listeria: Mine says that too. I'm more beautiful than you... he'll marry me!

Funkerella (from the kitchen): Wow! An invite to the prince's disco!

Listeria (going into the kitchen): She's not going to be competition for us.

Funkerella screams, there is a ripping sound.

Pneumonia: Very good, don't you think, Mum?

Salmonella: Yes. She won't spoil our chances of pleasing the Prince.

Listeria: So, you're going, Mum?

Salmonella: Well, of course! I'm invited. (I'm only 39.)

Funkerella: But what about me?

Salmonella: You stay at home and clean up after us. We go to the disco and have a chance of marrying the Prince.

Funkerella: But that's not fair!

It is the night of the disco. Pneumonia, Listeria and Salmonella are leaving.

Salmonella: Goodbye, Funkerella.

Funkerella: Bye, Salmonella. (sniffs)

Salmonella: Stop crying! Just because you haven't got an invitation.

Funkerella: But I did have one!

■ ■ ■

The others leave

Funkerella: It's not fair. I've been working for two months. I've used forty bottles of Fairy Liquid*.

Funkerella picks up a bottle of Fairy Liquid.

Funkerella: I wish I could go to the disco.

A puff of smoke. Fairy Liquid enters.

Fairy Liquid: Are you Funkerella?

Funkerella: Yes. And who are you?

Fairy Liquid: I'm your Fairy Godmother.

Funkerella: Wow! What can you do?

Fairy Liquid: Your wish is my command.



Funkerella: World peace?

Fairy Liquid: That's a little difficult...

Funkerella: Well... I know! You see, my stepmother and her daughters have gone to the Prince's disco, where he will choose his bride.

Fairy Liquid: Sounds familiar! Well, you'll need transport. Do you have a pumpkin?

Funkerella: No... But Salmonella uses cucumbers for her eyes.

Fairy Liquid: Well, take the cucumber outside and I'll see what I can do.

A puff of smoke.

Funkerella: Wow! Liquid, a Ferrari!

Fairy Liquid: Hmm. What next?

Funkerella: Some clothes?

Fairy Liquid: Hmm. Will platform shoes be alright?

Funkerella: Great.

* a type of washing-up liquid

More smoke

Funkerella: This is wonderful, Liquid. Thank you!

Fairy Liquid: The spell stops at midnight. I'll put an alarm clock in the Ferrari. Bye!

At the Prince's disco. Xavier and Xanthe are watching Prince Groovy.

Xanthe: I just hope he chooses a bride tonight.

Xavier: He'll find someone.

Listmaker: The Princess Arcana!

Xanthe: I can't remember inviting her.

Xavier: You can't remember anything.

Xanthe: Humph.

Funkerella walks onto the dance floor. Listeria and Groovy are dancing. Groovy sees Funkerella and leaves Listeria.

Groovy: You must be Princess Arcana.

Funkerella: Yes.

Groovy: Where are you from?

Funkerella: The Principality, but I'm living abroad for a year before university.

Groovy: Would you like to dance?

Funkerella: I could dance with you forever.

Groovy: Arcana, I'd like to marry you.

Funkerella's alarm clock rings.

Funkerella: Oh! I must go... My mother will be furious if I'm late!

Groovy: You must come again!

Funkerella has left one shoe.

Groovy picks it up.

Groovy: Who was she? I know that she is from the Principality. We must search the Principality until we find the owner of this shoe. Oh, Arcana!

■ ■ ■

A week later, the Listmaker, holding the shoe, knocks on Salmonella's door. Salmonella answers.

Salmonella: No, we don't want an encyclopaedia... Oh, hello!

Listmaker: Hello, I'm on an important mission for the Prince. I must find the person whose foot fits the shoe today. The Prince must marry her before tomorrow.

Salmonella: I'll marry him.

Listmaker: Only Princess Arcana's foot will fit this shoe!

Salmonella: Well, come in.

Listmaker: She must be here. This is the last house!

Everyone except Funkerella is in the living room.

Pneumonia: It fits!

Listmaker: No, it doesn't!

Listeria: It fits me!

Listmaker: No, it doesn't! There must be another person in this house.

Funkerella enters.

Listmaker: Could you try on this shoe please?... It fits! You must be Princess Arcana! Phone Prince Groovy!

Groovy: Princess Arcana!

Funkerella: Funkerella, in fact.

Groovy: Great name! Oh, Funkerella!

Funkerella: Oh, Groovy!

Groovy: Will you marry me?

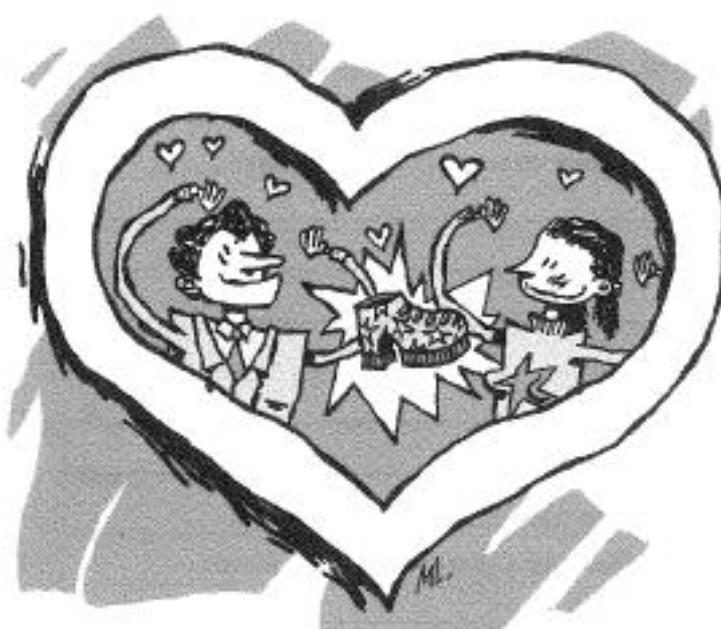
Xanthe and Xavier appear.

Xavier: So you've found a bride!

Groovy: Yes, and we'll marry tomorrow in the cathedral!

Funkerella: Why not get married in the disco?

■



FUNKERELLA

Name: _____

Class: _____

GLOBAL COMPREHENSION

1. The story takes place: in the past in the present in the future
2. Number of characters: 4 6 8 10
3. List the characters and indicate their names and roles in the story: _____

DETAILED COMPREHENSION

1. THE HEROINE

a. Name: _____

b. This name indicates she is: traditional
 old-fashioned modern unconventional

c. She is: a young girl a teenager
 in her thirties in her forties

d. Mother's name: _____

e. Mother's plans: _____

f. Father's name: _____

g. This name indicates he is:
 strict fun not interesting

h. Give two recent events in his life and use sentences from the story to support your answers:

i. The heroine has: two sisters
 a brother and a sister two stepsisters

j. Give their names: _____

k. These names refer to: _____

I. These names indicate that they are are:

- pleasant and that people would want to know them
- unpleasant and that people would avoid them

m. The heroine is: happy at home

unhappy at home never at home

Support your answer by quoting from the story:

n. Godmother's name:

Give details about her:

2. THE PRINCE

a. Name: _____

b. This name indicates he is: grave cool
 modern traditional

c. He is interested in: the cinema modern music
 sport

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d. Consequence of this interest: _____

e. Age: _____

f. His age is important: yes no
Support your answer with two sentences from the story: _____

g. Mother's name: _____

h. She is: bossy cool understanding
Support your answer with a sentence from the story: _____

i. Father's name: _____

j. The parents' problem:
 their couple their son the principality
Their idea: _____

3. THE INVITATION

a. Place: _____

b. Reason: _____

c. Who wrote the list: _____

d. Give details about the people who are invited:
- Sex: _____
- Age: _____

e. Names of characters who received an invitation: _____

f. Funkerella had an invitation: yes no
Support your answer with a sentence from the story: _____

g. She can go: yes no

h. What happened: _____

i. Why this happened: _____

j. Character who arrives: _____

k. Her actions:
- First: _____
- Then: _____

l. The heroine's reaction: _____
Support your answer with an adjective from the story: _____

m. Something she must not forget: _____
Explain with a sentence from the story: _____

4. THE MEETING

a. Place: _____

b. Identity the heroine gives: _____

c. It is her real name: yes no
Explain: _____

d. The heroine meets the prince: yes no
Support your answer with sentences from the story: _____

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e. The prince falls in love: yes no

Support your answer with a sentence from the story:

f. The heroine can stay at the disco a long time:

yes no

Explain: _____

g. Important object she loses: _____

5. THE SEARCH

a. It consists of: _____

b. Name of the person in charge of the search: _____

c. It is a difficult search: yes no

Explain: _____

d. The search is: a success a failure

Support your answer with sentences from the story:

e. It has a happy ending: yes no

Explain: _____

6. THE STORY

a. It is a parody of: _____

b. Compare ten details from the traditional version and their modern equivalents.

Traditional version	Modern equivalents
1. Cinderella	_____
2. her mother is dead	_____
3. a ball	_____
4. the fairy godmother	_____
5. pumpkin	_____
6. a coach	_____
7. a glass shoe	_____
8. the clock	_____
9. tell the Prince	_____
10. a cathedral marriage	_____

WORD STORE

1. FIND SYNONYMS IN THE STORY

a. to leave: _____

i. a magical trick: _____

b. the right to keep a child after a divorce: _____

j. to be the right size: _____

c. your father's second wife: _____

2. FIND THE OPPOSITES

d. condition of being an unpaid servant: _____

a. worse: _____

e. hip, cool: _____

b. intelligent: _____

f. a woman who is getting married: _____

c. to put in danger: _____

g. right, just: _____

d. war: _____

h. something you would like to happen: _____

e. to forget: _____

f. early: _____

g. dreadful: _____

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Why are stepmothers in stories mean?

2. Can a fairy tale like this story happen in real life?

7 ALIEN INVADER

by Peter Yared

I've always wondered about Roy Dwight, ever since I saw him jump. One day, I was walking around the corner of Main Street in Greensburg, my home town, when a car zoomed past me, turned sharply, and went straight for Roy!

"Watch it, Roy!" I yelled.

He turned around, seeing the car, which was about three metres away from him, and leaped. And I mean leaped! He went soaring above the blue car and landed about seven metres behind it. The driver, a short, fat man, climbed out of the car and started cussing at Roy. Roy turned and ran, naturally. The driver added a few more profanities to his little speech, then jumped back into his car, slammed the door and drove off.

Here's the problem: I think Roy's an alien. If he could jump around seven metres, he must be used to a stronger gravity.

■ ■ ■

Roy has a long thin face, light brown hair and pointed ears. Maybe it was his pointy ears that made me think he was an alien at first. They always reminded me of Spock in that dumb Star Trek show on TV. When he first came to Greensburg, one and a half years ago, everyone called him Spooky Spocky, but we all got sick of it, so we quit. His eyes always look like they are squinting. If he's not from Earth, he's probably squinting because his sun is less bright than ours, or he lives further away from our sun than we do. He's got a long drooping nose. But his main feature is his IQ. It is 183. Now show me a kid with an IQ of 183 and I'll show you an alien.

Up to now, I had my doubts if he was an alien or not, but yesterday in the park I finally decided. We were playing football in the park stadium, and Roy was sitting in the stands with a radio beside him. Of the whole park, our favourite place is the stadium. The guard always lets us play, which is pretty nice of him.

Well, Roy was sitting in the stands, but he



was doing something pretty weird. He wasn't only listening to the radio, he was also talking into it! I guessed it was his transmitter, and he was using it to talk to his people. Then Bill had to go home and clean up his room, so we were one player short. We called to Roy and asked if he wanted to play. He agreed, and slid off the bench. As he slid, his leg bumped his 'radio' and it fell to the ground and split apart. Its contents were totally different from those of a normal radio. There was this greenish fluid coming out, and the electronics were very, very compact. The antenna had an enormous booster that probably helped in transmitting over long distances.

Right then I knew for sure: Roy is not from Earth. I told the other guys I had to go shopping for my Mom, and before they could object, I ran home.

■ ■ ■

When I finally got there, I ran into my room and hurried to my long, wooden desk. I groped under it until I found a button and pushed it. With the hum of electric motors, my desk transformed into a communications terminal. My fingers went flying over the keyboard, typing area codes and frequencies. Every time I pushed a button a beep sounded. Then I reached for my microphone and said into it, "Zargon to Pluto Station, Zargon to Pluto Station, I have found an alien. He is not from Earth, nor is he one of us. Delay the invasion until I investigate further." ■

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ALIEN INVADER

Name: _____

Class: _____

GLOBAL COMPREHENSION

1. THE NARRATOR

a. He is: a child an adult

Support your answer with sentences from the text:

b. Town where he lives: _____

c. Sport he usually practises with his friends: _____

2. THE OTHER BOY

a. First name: _____

b. Last name: _____

c. Physical description: _____

d. What is special about his eyes: _____

e. He is: extremely intelligent intelligent stupid

Support your answer with a sentence from the story:

DETAILED COMPREHENSION

A. THE COMPARISONS

1. THE FIRST COMPARISON

a. Who compares: _____

b. Who is compared: _____

c. He is compared to: _____

d. Nickname the narrator first gave the other boy: _____

e. Place where you can see this character: _____

a TV series a comic strip a car magazine

f. Its name is: _____

g. It is about: the Earth space the sea

h. The narrator likes it: yes no

Explain with an adjective from the story: _____

i. This adjective means: stupid clever strong

2. THE SECOND COMPARISON

a. Who compares: _____

b. Who is compared: _____

c. He is compared to: _____

Support your answer with sentences from the story:

g. The narrator is sure of his deduction: yes no

ALIEN INVADER

Give two sentences from the story to support your answer:

2. THE SECOND INCIDENT

- Place: _____
- Exact location: _____
- What everyone is doing: _____
- Where the boy is: _____
- Object the boy is using: _____
- What he is doing with it: _____
- Give three details about the object: _____

- h. The narrator's deduction: _____
- i. The narrator is sure of his deduction: yes no

Support your answer with a sentence from the story:

WORD STORE

1. FIND SYNONYMS IN THE STORY

- directly: _____
- to jump: _____
- a person from another planet: _____
- to stop: _____
- characteristic: _____
- a child: _____
- bizarre: _____
- to think: _____

C. THE END OF THE STORY

1. CONSEQUENCES OF THE SECOND INCIDENT

- They concern: the narrator the other boy
- Where he goes immediately: _____
Exact place: _____
- Object he uses: _____
- This object is normal: yes no

Explain with three details: _____

2. WHAT WE LEARN ABOUT THE NARRATOR

- His name: _____
- Where he comes from: _____
- Contents of his message: _____

- The origins of the narrator and the other boy are:
 different the same. Explain: _____
- The narrator and the other boy both come from:
 the Earth space the same planet
 different planets
- The title of the story concerns:
 the narrator the other boy
 the narrator and/or the other boy

WORD STORE

1. FIND SYNONYMS IN THE STORY

- directly: _____
- to jump: _____
- a person from another planet: _____
- to stop: _____
- characteristic: _____
- a child: _____
- bizarre: _____
- to think: _____

- boys: _____

- Mum: _____

2. FIND THE WORDS IN THE STORY THAT CORRESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING DEFINITIONS

- to go very fast (a car): _____
- a measure of intelligence: _____
- what you use to amplify: _____
- to go fast (a person): _____
- what you type on: _____
- to write with a machine: _____

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- Do you believe in aliens? Why? Why not?
- Do you think the narrator is an alien or is he just pretending?

8 A MIRROR OF THE MAN

by Cathy Baker

Benedict Barton was not old, not young. He had grey hair and a grey face, and worked as a Social Security clerk.

There was also something very particular about Barton. He was nasty to everyone generally, and to anyone different from him in particular, such as women, black people, Asian people, the poor. He was prejudiced.



Today was not a good day for Barton. On his way to work he thought that someone was following him. He turned round angrily several times, sure of having heard footsteps following his. But whoever was there simply disappeared into the crowd.

Now Barton was seated safely at his desk; at least there he could not be disturbed. A pile of letters needed to be opened. On the top was a leaflet.

"Equality for All!" said the leaflet's happy message. Barton hated this sort of thing. He normally threw things like that away. But a bizarre force made him open the page and read.

"This Christmas, Let Us Make the World Equal!" the big letters brightly declared. Barton detested good-natured Christmas messages. He threw the colourful leaflet into the bin and went to get some tea.



Later, when he was back at his desk, he was surprised to find the leaflet in front of him again. For the first time, he noticed the photo on the front of the leaflet. He thought it was an extremely horrible man, whose skin was partly black, partly white, and grey in the middle. He looked closer and recognised his own shoulders, his own legs, his own arms. Everything was like Barton, everything except the strange skin.

At that moment, the door slowly opened to reveal a ray of light. Standing before Barton was the man from the leaflet.

"I know all about you, Benedict Barton," he said.

"What do you want?"

"You know why I have come. Think of all those people you have oppressed, Barton. The young mother with three children. Just because she is a different race from you, you won't give her the money she needs."

Barton did not answer. The man gave him more and more examples.

"Enough!" Barton could stand it no longer. He tried to punch the man's face, but his fist passed through the air. "What sort of creature are you?"

"I am the essence of all those you have oppressed. I grow every day. I follow you every day."

Barton was afraid. "I'll change," he cried, "I'll do anything you say."

"It's too late to change, Barton," the man said. "Watch me."



As Barton watched, the man became exactly like him. The new Barton sat down at the desk and took the leaflet. He smiled at the confused old Barton.

"I have not finished with you yet," he said, pointing his finger at him. The old Barton realised he was getting smaller and flatter, until he was the size of the photo in the leaflet.

Above his head appeared a slogan: "Let Us Get Rid of Bigots!" The old Barton was in the leaflet: he was the photo! Looking down at him with a satisfied smile was the reformed Barton, who very slowly turned over the page. ■



A MIRROR OF THE MAN

Name: _____

Class: _____

GLOBAL COMPREHENSION

1. It is a story about: a white man a black man
 a ghost
2. It takes place: in the present in the future
3. Exact period: _____
4. The story develops: in someone's home
 in an office in a post office

DETAILED COMPREHENSION

1. THE PRINCIPAL CHARACTER

- a. First name: _____
- b. Last name: _____
- c. Sex: _____
- d. Age: we are told precisely
 we are given indications
 it is not mentioned

Support your answer with a sentence from the story:

- e. Physical description: _____

- f. Adjective used to describe the character: _____

- g. Impression it creates: _____

- h. Personality: _____

Support your answer with two sentences from the story:

- i. Job: _____

- j. Where he works: _____

- k. People come there: to ask for help to have fun
 to meet friends

- l. For this job, you should be: nice to people
 indifferent to people nasty to people

- m. In his job, the principal character is:
 nice to people indifferent to people
 nasty to people

- n. Which kind of people: _____

- o. Give a specific example: _____

2. HIS WORKING DAY

- a. It started well: yes no. Explain: _____
- b. He: drove to work walked to work
 caught the bus to work

Support your answer with words from the story:

- c. What he found on his desk: _____

- d. It is: a note a small brochure a letter

- e. What it said: _____

- f. The message is especially important at that period of the year: yes no. Explain: _____

Support your answer with two sentences from the story:

- g. What he felt: _____

Support your answer with two verbs from the story:

- h. Why: _____

- i. What he did: _____

3. THE LEAFLET

- a. Where it reappeared: _____
- b. That was normal: yes no. Explain: _____
- c. It is: black and white colourful
- d. This shows a contrast between the leaflet and:
 the desk the principal character the mirror
- e. Something important he noticed in it: _____
- f. What it represented: _____

A MIRROR OF THE MAN

g. What was similar: _____
Support your answer with a sentence from the story:

Support your answer with a sentence from the story:

h. What was different: _____
Support your answer with a sentence from the story:

Support your answer with a sentence from the story:

i. The other character: accepted refused
Explain why: _____
j. What happened:
- First: _____
- Then: _____

4. THE MEETING

a. It is between: _____ and _____.
b. What the other character represents:

c. He is: a real person
 the representation of other people a ghost
Support your answer with a sentence from the story:

d. Reason for the other character's presence:

e. Barton's first reaction:

f. He succeeded: yes no. Explain:

g. Barton's second reaction:

h. What he proposed to do:

5. THE END

a. What Barton is now: _____
b. Where he is: _____
Support your answer with a sentence from the story:

c. Place where the other character is now:

d. Reason for that:

e. The other character represents the mirror of Barton's:
 face conscience intelligence
f. It is a happy ending: yes no. Explain:

g. The type of story this is:
Explain:

WORD STORE

1. FIND SYNONYMS IN THE STORY

a. an office worker: _____
b. strange: _____
c. to dislike others because they are different: _____

d. a group of people: _____
e. in security: _____
f. personal: _____
g. to hit violently: _____
i. a prejudiced person: _____

2. FIND THE OPPOSITES

a. bottom: _____
b. to keep: _____
c. with no colour: _____
d. earlier: _____
e. to get smaller: _____
f. under: _____

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Do feelings and personality reflect on a person's face?
2. Do you think bad people can always change for the better?

by Loubel Cruz



I was watching the snow falling outside, in English class. I was not used to deep snow every morning. But that's what you get when you move to Boston. That was exactly what Davis warned me about before I moved here.

I laughed inside when I thought of Davis. Then my heart began to hurt. It all started five months ago, when the biggest event in my 15 years began.

It was a hot, humid day in October. I was in Houston, Texas, where I'd lived all my life.

"My parents are acting weirdly, all secretive and stuff," I told Davis Vaughn. We were sitting in my room after school, and Davis was copying my geometry answers. He didn't like math. His favourite subject was gym. Davis was sure he was going to be a professional in every sport that ever existed. My dream was to become a writer.

"Look, Marshall, don't worry," Davis said, not taking his eyes off the math.

A couple of years ago, he started calling me by my last name. He said Colleen was too feminine. I said I was a girl. He said he wasn't sure. It was annoying at first, but I got used to it.

Davis Vaughn is my best friend. I never really told him that, he never has either. But we knew.

"Well, I'd better be going home now," Davis

said, "Don't worry, Marshall, everything will be okay." He smiled, his eyes sparkling. The "Davis sparkle", as I called it...

That night at dinner, I played with my food. My parents kept looking at me funny, very curious about what my problem was. Good, that's what I wanted, I wanted to know what was wrong, too.

Then, my father spoke. "Collie, there's something we've been wanting to tell you."

Oh no, here it comes! I thought of every bad thing that could have happened.

"We're moving."

"Huh?" I knew what he said, I was just hoping I was wrong. Funny, that wasn't one of the things I thought he might say.

My father looked at my mom nervously, forcing a weak smile. "My company has opened up a new firm in Boston. And, well... they picked me to manage it. Collie, it's the chance of a lifetime."

I stared.

"Collie?" my mom said, concerned. "It's going to be great, sweetie, I promise. There will be lots of snow. You always loved snow." She was talking to me as if I was a two-year-old.

I opened my mouth but nothing came out. Finally a voice whispered, "Boston? When?"

"During Christmas vacation."

I don't remember who answered me, and I don't remember starting to cry, either. I do remember the worried expression on my father's face, as if he'd just ruined my adolescence forever.

The next afternoon, Davis and I were engaged in our daily ritual of me doing geometry and Davis copying it. The day had been terrible. Davis knew something was wrong, but was intelligent enough not to ask what it was. I knew I had to tell him, though. So I decided to start.

"I'm moving."



Hmmmm?"

"I'm moving."

"Yeah, right."

"Davis!" I said angrily. "I'm serious."

Davis looked at me. He knew the truth.

"Where?"

"Boston."

"When?"

"Christmas vacation."

The "Davis sparkle" wasn't in his eyes.

"What?"

"It's not my decision."

Davis looked down. He said nothing, but I knew exactly how he felt. Finally, without looking up, he spoke.

"Boston's pretty cool, I guess. There's gonna be a lot of snow." He picked up the geometry book.

"Davis, you sound like my mother." I was getting angry now. He acted like he didn't care.

"Well, Colleen, what do you want me to say? I can't say, 'Don't go', because I know you have to."

I had never seen him this way. It scared me — he called me Colleen.

"It's not my fault," I said, crying.

"Look, I gotta go now. It's getting late."

Without another word, Davis left, slamming the door behind him.

■ ■ ■

The next day I tried to find Davis to talk to him, but at the same time tried to avoid his presence. The first time I saw him was in Mrs. Drew's English class. He didn't look my way, so I tried not to look his. We were studying poetry, and our assignment for the day was to write a list of ten things. I looked at Davis to see if he would give me one of his "this-is-such-a-stupid-class" looks, but he didn't.

That afternoon the doorbell rang.

"Could you help me with geometry?" Davis gave me a shy smile.

"Davis, I'm sorry. I really shouldn't have..."

"Hey, Marshall, forget about it. I should be the one who's sorry. Boston, huh? No offence, but you're gonna freeze up there."

I laughed. This was the way it should have been.

"Let's not talk about you moving anymore, okay? Promise?"

Two months came and went. Davis and I didn't mention anything about moving. He

helped me pack, but we never actually discussed why. We went on with our daily routine: him copying geometry, me watching his football games, him checking my newspaper articles.

Then the day before moving day came. We were in my room comparing Christmas presents.

"Uh, well, Merry Christmas," he said, giving me a small wrapped box.

Inside the box was a golden locket.

"Uh, my mom picked it," he said, laughing. "I thought you would like it, though. I didn't put my picture in it because you might find a really nice guy in Boston. But there's a message so you won't forget me."

"Thanks." I immediately put it on. I loved it.

"Oh, here's another thing." He gave me a small envelope. "Don't open it yet. After I leave."

He headed for the door. "Boston will be fabulous, Marshall. I promise. You'll be fine." He smiled.

"Bye."

"See you later."

Davis opened my bedroom door.

He turned around and smiled. His eyes sparkled with little teardrops. "I know, Marshall." And with that he walked away.

I sat down on the floor, and through the tears read what Davis had written.

Ten Things Colleen K. Marshall Should Remember in Boston

1. Don't get a horrible New England accent.
2. In association with #1, say "ya'll" as much as possible.
3. She's beautiful.
4. She will always be a Texan at heart.
5. Her name is Marshall.
6. She's going to be a writer. She will write only the truth.
7. It's not her fault if a certain person fails geometry. Ha, Ha.
8. She's not fat, she's not fat, she's not fat.
9. The Houston Oilers* rule!
10. Colleen K. Marshall should always remember that Davis R. Vaughn loves her too.

How could he write this? He knew I would cry. But I was laughing, too. Laughing at what he wrote and all the good times we had. Davis knew me so well, better than anyone else, and I was leaving him. But as the gold locket said, "We'll always be together."

So here I was in Boston, going to Catholic private school, walking on snow every morning.

The bell rang. I hadn't made many friends here — I really hadn't tried — so it surprised me when I heard someone call my name. I turned and saw a guy running toward me.

"Hi, I'm Richard Luis. I'm the editor of the newspaper here. Call me Rick."

"Oh, hi. I'm Colleen Marshall. Call me..." I thought about it, "Colleen."

"I know." I felt surprised and flattered that he did. "Sister Agnes says you're a very talented writer. We heard that you were on the news staff at your old school... in Texas?"

"We really need some good writers, would you like to be on the staff?"

"Yeah, that would be great." I couldn't believe my luck.

"Cool. What do you write?"

I thought of the list of ten things, "Only the truth." ■

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* the Houston Oilers are a football team.

A LIST OF TEN THINGS

Name: _____

Class: _____

GLOBAL COMPREHENSION

1. It is a story between: two adults
 a teenager and his/her parents two teenagers
2. The beginning of the text is: in the past
 in the present in the future
3. Place: in England in the U.S.A. in Canada
Support your answer with a sentence from the story:

4. Season: _____

5. Then the story develops: in the past
 in the present in the future

Support your answer with a sentence from the story:

6. Season: _____

7. The narrator is: a young woman
 a teenaged girl a teenaged boy a young man

DETAILED COMPREHENSION

1. THE NARRATOR

- a. First name: _____
its abbreviation: _____
- b. Last name: _____
- c. Home town: _____
- d. State: _____ Country: _____
- e. The climate there is usually: hot mild cold
 very cold
- f. Age: _____

Explain with words from the story:

- g. Dream for the future: _____

- i. He has been best friends with the principal character for: two weeks a few months
 a couple of years

- j. He calls the narrator by her: first name
 nickname last name

- k. Reason given in the story: _____

3. MOVING

- a. People who are moving: _____
- b. They are moving to: another house
 another town in the state another state
- c. It is: near far very far
- d. Why they are moving: _____

- e. When it will happen: _____

- f. It is: next year in two weeks in two months
Explain:

- g. Town where they are moving: _____

- h. It's in: the north the south

- i. The climate there is usually: hot mild cold
 very cold snowy

Support your answer with sentences from the story:

2. HER BEST FRIEND

- a. First name: _____
- b. Last name: _____
- c. Physical description: _____
- d. Favourite subject at school: _____
- e. Dream for the future: _____
- f. Subject he doesn't like: _____
- g. Solution: _____
- h. He adopts this solution: rarely frequently
 regularly

Support your answer with words from the story:

A LIST OF TEN THINGS

4. REACTIONS TO THE NEWS

a. The principal character was: happy indifferent
 shocked

b. Four actions that illustrate her reaction:

- First: _____
- Second: _____
- Third: _____
- Finally: _____

c. Her best friend was: happy indifferent
 shocked

d. Three actions that illustrate his reaction:

- First: _____
- Second: _____
- Third: _____

e. Colleen's reaction to her best friend's attitude: _____
Support your answer with a sentence from the story: _____

f. Reason: _____
Support your answer with a sentence from the story: _____

g. This is right: yes no

h. What she noticed: _____

i. What this shows: _____

5. A NEW ROUTINE

Indicate whether the following statements are right (R) or wrong (W) and justify your answers with sentences from the story.

R W

a. Colleen decided not to talk to Davis.

b. Colleen didn't stop helping Davis with his geometry.

c. Colleen and Davis were no longer friends.

d. They decided not to talk about moving away.

e. Colleen was going to live in a cold place.

6. THE CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

a. From: _____ to: _____

b. Number: _____

c. What they are: _____

d. Who chose each present: _____

e. First present that was opened: _____

f. Colleen didn't like it: yes no

Support your answer with a sentence from the story: _____

g. Something is written inside: yes no

Explain with words from the story: _____

h. Colleen opened all the presents in Davis's presence:
 yes no

Explain with words, sentences from the story: _____

i. Davis was sad to say good-bye: yes no

Support your answer with a sentence from the story: _____

j. Colleen was sad to say good-bye: yes no

Support your answer with a sentence from the story: _____

7. THE LIST

a. Who wrote it: _____

b. Origin of the idea: _____

Support your answer with a sentence from the story: _____

c. The list concerns: objects feelings advice

d. Number of items on the list: _____

e. They all concern Colleen: yes no

Explain with a sentence from the list: _____

A LIST OF TEN THINGS

f. The most important number on the list: _____

Support your answer with words from the list:

g. What Davis feels for Colleen: _____

h. What Davis thinks about her:

- Her physical appearance: _____

- Her personality: _____

- Her job in the future: _____

- His advice: _____

Explain why: _____

i. Colleen's reaction: _____

j. What she feels for Davis: _____

k. What this shows about their relationship: _____

8. COLLEEN MARSHALL'S NEW LIFE

a. Town: _____

b. Type of school: _____

c. Weather: _____

d. She is happy there: yes no

Explain with words from the story:

e. It is: her fault the other people's fault

Support your answer with words from the story:

f. Give information about the student she meets:

- First name: _____ Abbreviation: _____

- Last name: _____

- Occupation/ hobby: _____

g. What he proposes to Colleen: _____

h. Colleen's reactions: _____

i. Colleen's decision: _____

j. What he wants to know: _____

k. Colleen's answer: _____

l. Person she is thinking about: _____

m. This shows: _____

WORD STORE

1. FIND SYNONYMS IN THE STORY

a. to do all you can not to do something: _____

c. an exercise: _____

e. a piece of jewellery you wear around your neck: _____

f. a boy: _____

g. liquid in your eyes when you cry: _____

h. to walk towards something: _____

i. the person who decides on the articles in a magazine: _____

2. FIND THE OPPOSITES

a. to close: _____

b. confident: _____

c. to come in: _____

d. a lie: _____

e. to cry: _____

f. to be parted: _____

g. public: _____

3. FIND THE AMERICAN EQUIVALENTS

a. Mum: _____

b. holiday: _____

c. yes: _____

d. to think: _____

e. I have got to: _____

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Do you think Colleen will ever forget Davis?

2. Would you keep your love secret or confess it if you had to move?