

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# My Summer Vacation

By Kelly Hashway



Sam tapped his pencil against his blank paper and sighed.

"I'll never be able to write this essay."

"What's wrong?" his mother asked, placing her hand on his shoulder. "You just have to write about what you did over summer vacation."

"Yeah, but I didn't go on vacation. Vicki went to the Bahamas and Jake went to Myrtle Beach. I had to go stay with Aunt Tara because our house was being renovated."

Mom spun Sam around in his desk chair. "Just because you didn't go to a resort doesn't mean you didn't have a vacation. Look at all the things you did with your cousin this summer."

Sam scrunched his forehead in thought. He and Eric had entered a bike competition, gone to an amusement park, and took Karate lessons. "I guess I could write about that stuff." He shrugged, still not sure if his essay was going to impress his friends at school.

The next day, the class took turns reading their essays. Sam slunk down in his seat, hoping Mr. Matthews wouldn't notice him. With only ten minutes left before lunch, Sam thought he was safe from having to read his essay.

"Sam, I think we have enough time to hear about your summer vacation," Mr. Matthews said.

Sam gulped as he got up and walked to the front of the room with his paper in his hand. He didn't take his eyes off the essay as he read it.

When he was finished no one clapped or said anything. He slowly raised his eyes to see a bunch of hands in the air.

"Looks like you have some questions," Mr. Matthews said. He pointed to Jake in the front row.

"Did you get to go on that new roller coaster at the amusement park?" Jake asked. "I heard it was really scary."

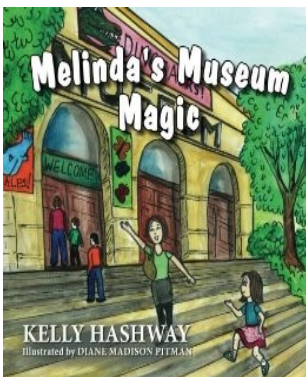
"Yeah. I begged my parents to take me, but they wouldn't," Vicki said.

As Sam answered question after question, he smiled. Before he knew it, it was time for lunch. On the way to the cafeteria, the questions continued.

"You're so lucky," Jake said. "I wish I did all that this summer."

Sam smiled. He'd had an amazing summer after all.

## About the Author



Kelly Hashway's picture book, *Melinda's Museum Magic*, is now available!

Melinda is taking her first trip to the museum, and her mother promises it will be magical. But when the exhibits start coming to life in ways that only Melinda can see, she'll learn the real magic of the museum.

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1. What was the topic of Sam's essay?

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2. Why didn't Sam think he would be able to write his essay?

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3. Which of these things did Sam not do over summer vacation?

- |                               |                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>a.</b> take Karate lessons | <b>b.</b> go to an amusement park  |
| <b>c.</b> go to a resort      | <b>d.</b> enter a bike competition |

4. Why did Sam think he would not have to read his essay in front of the class?

- |                                  |                                  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>a.</b> He was hiding.         | <b>b.</b> Class was almost over. |
| <b>c.</b> It wasn't interesting. | <b>d.</b> He passed his turn.    |

5. How did the class respond to Sam's essay?

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Match each vocabulary word on the left with the definition on the right.

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. _____ renovated   | a. swallowed hard because of a strong emotion   |
| 2. _____ resort      | b. to cause someone to feel admiration  |
| 3. _____ impress     | c. trying to win something that someone else is also trying to win                      |
| 4. _____ scrunched   | d. a place where people go on vacation  |
| 5. _____ slunk       | e. to tighten up the muscles of your face or nose                                       |
| 6. _____ gulped      | f. made changes or repairs to a house, room, or building                                |
| 7. _____ competition | g. moved in a way that did not attract attention because you were embarrassed or afraid |

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

## ANSWER KEY

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1. What was the topic of Sam's essay?

The topic of Sam's essay was to tell about what you did over summer vacation.

2. Why didn't Sam think he would be able to write his essay?

Sam didn't think he would be able to write his essay because he felt that he didn't do anything exciting over the summer since he didn't go on vacation like his friends. He had to stay with his aunt while his house was being renovated.

3. Which of these things did Sam not do over summer vacation? **c**

a. take Karate lessons

b. go to an amusement park

**c. go to a resort**

d. enter a bike competition

4. Why did Sam think he would not have to read his essay in front of the class? **b**

a. He was hiding.

**b. Class was almost over.**

c. It wasn't interesting.

d. He passed his turn.

5. How did the class respond to Sam's essay?

When Sam finished his essay the class had lots of questions for him. They wanted to know all about the rides he went on at the amusement park and some kids even wished they did all the things that Sam did over the summer.

## ANSWER KEY

# My Summer Vacation

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Match each vocabulary word on the left with the definition on the right.

- |             |             |   |
|-------------|-------------|---|
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