

GOING TO THE BEACH

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It was Saturday morning. Mom and Dad had promised to take us to the beach. It had been a long time since we had gone to the beach as a family. We prepared all the things we would need to make the trip fun.

Mom prepared a picnic lunch of chicken sandwiches, chips, soda, and best of all, candy!

Dad got the car ready. He packed the umbrella and all the toys we would play with. He brought a football, soccer ball, beach ball, volleyball, and a raft so we could play in the waves.

I brought my bathing suit, fins, goggles, bucket, shovel, towel, chair, suntan oil, and my flip-flops.

When my sister Linda came out of the house, my mother told her to change her clothes. She did not like Linda's bathing suit. Mom said it was too small. Linda got angry and stomped into the house. She mumbled something about how unfair our mother was.

Steve is younger than I am. He always wants to do exactly what I do. He could be annoying sometimes. When he came out of the house, he was wearing all his swimming gear. He had on his goggles, fins, bathrobe, and in his hands, he carried his towel and beach bag. He looked really funny.

Soon it was time to leave. When we go to the beach we always leave early in the morning in order to get a good place to sit on the beach. Mom had fixed some

food for us to eat in the car for our breakfast. She always packs the best treats. She made us bagels with ham and egg. My favorite!

Mom and dad were sitting in the front. We were in the back.

The worst part of the trip was having to listen to the radio station that my dad liked. My sister always complains.

“Dad, can you change the radio? Can we listen to my music?” she would say.

A simple, “No” was always my dad’s response. As usual, my sister folded her arms and looked out the window.

Steve always sat in the middle so that Linda and I would not fight. It was fun to pick on Linda, but when she got angry, I would run. She was a lot bigger than I was. When she got mad at me, she would hold me down and tickle me until I almost wet my pants. I hate to be tickled.

In the car, I had no place to run. It was best that Steve was in the middle.

It took one hour to get to the beach. Steve was playing with the toys he had brought with him and was making a lot of noise. He made noises like airplanes and trucks. I looked out the window at the scenery as we drove through the countryside, while Linda kept complaining about the music. It was always like that.

When we got to the beach, dad parked the car as close to the sand as he could. We all helped to unload the car. Linda complained about having to help. She wanted to start her tan and look for boys. Linda always liked to talk to the boys when we went to the beach. She would walk up and down the beach listening to her music and the boys would come up to talk to her.

After we helped put the blanket on the sand and set up the chairs, Steve and I asked if we could play in the water. Steve had on his life jacket. He did not know how to swim yet. We ran to the water. It was cold, but we did not care.

I brought the buckets to the edge of the water. We had fun building sandcastles. We built a big fort and pretended that knights on white horses were

attacking the fort. We found some sticks to build a bridge over the moat. We poured water into the moat so the attacking knights would not be able to get inside of the castle. Some of the other kids on the beach wanted to help us, but we said, “No. This is our fort.”

Suddenly, a big wave came and washed our fort away. Steve cried. I laughed. Our fort was gone, but we had a fun time building it together.

After that, we went to eat our lunch. Sometimes sand gets into the food and makes my teeth hurt, but I like having a picnic on the beach. Mom always makes the perfect food for a picnic.

Linda came back for lunch. She introduced a boy to mom and dad. They did not say anything; they just looked at each other. He joined us for lunch.

The afternoon was fun. We played in the water and got all wet. Dad brought the beach ball, and we hit it into the air. The wind caught the ball and blew it far into the water. Then dad had to swim out to get it. Steve and I laughed at dad as he chased the ball. Sometimes we would hit the ball and it would be far from the beach. After dad got the ball the last time, he was tired. He took it back to his chair on the beach with mom to rest.

We used the raft and rode the big waves to the shore. Sometimes we would fall out of the raft into the water. We had a lot of fun.

Linda spent most of the day laying in the sun and talking to boys. Sometimes there were three or four boys talking to her. She liked the attention. Dad did not like it because he knew the boys would call our house as soon as we got home. They would ask to talk to Linda. Dad would always tell them to call back later the next day.

On the way home, everyone was tired. Steve fell asleep leaning on my shoulder. Linda had a big smile on her face. She did not complain about the music.

I think she met a boy she liked. I just sat quietly watching the cars on the road. When we arrived home, it was dark. We unpacked the car and put everything away.

Dad vacuumed the car to get all the sand out of the carpets and the seats. We took all our things and put them in the garage so we could find them for our next trip to the beach.

Mom had to put lotion on our sunburns. I went to bed early. I did not even eat my dinner I was so tired. I had a wonderful day at the beach.

VOCABULARY: (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. goggles _____ | a. walks strongly |
| 2. umbrella _____ | b. grumble, whine |
| 3. stomped _____ | c. medieval soldiers |
| 4. annoying _____ | d. trench, ditch with water |
| 5. complain _____ | e. sunshade, rain protection |
| 6. unload _____ | f. present, meet someone |
| 7. castle _____ | g. takes out, unpack |
| 8. knights _____ | h. glasses for eyes for swimming |
| 9. moat _____ | i. fortress, kingdom |
| 10. introduce _____ | j. bothersome, irritating |

TRUE / FALSE:

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 1. We like to go to the beach. | T / F |
| 2. Steve is my older brother. | T / F |
| 3. Mom and dad had to work on Saturday. | T / F |
| 4. Linda liked to meet boys. | T / F |
| 5. Our fort was washed away by a wave. | T / F |
| 6. Steve fell asleep in the car on the way home. | T / F |
| 7. Linda liked dad's music. | T / F |
| 8. I hate going to the beach. | T / F |
| 9. I ate a lot of sand at the beach. | T / F |
| 10. Mom made ice cream for lunch. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. Who complained about the music all the time? _____
 - a) Steve
 - b) Linda
 - c) Mom
 - d) me

2. Where did we go on Saturday? _____
 - a) the park
 - b) the zoo
 - c) the beach
 - d) the library

3. What did Linda like to do at the beach? _____
 - a) swim
 - b) look for boys
 - c) eat
 - d) play games

4. What did dad have to go out into the water to get? _____
 - a) basketball
 - b) soccer ball
 - c) beach ball
 - d) Linda

COMPREHENSION: *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. Where did we go on Saturday?

2. What is my sister's name?

3. What kind of balls did dad bring to the beach?

4. What did Steve and I build with our buckets?

5. What did mom fix us for lunch?

6. What color were the horses we imagined that attacked the castle?

7. What did Linda do at the beach?

8. How long did it take to get to the beach?

9. What did Steve do on the way home?

10. What did mom make Linda do before we left for the beach?
