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Learning to Play the Game



Genre	Comprehension Skills and Strategy
Realistic fiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draw Conclusions• Theme• Answer Questions

Scott Foresman Reading Street 5.4.1



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illustrated by Dan Grant





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Creeaak...slam! Every time the moving truck went over the tiniest bump in the road, it would shake and shudder, making a racket like an old screen door slamming shut. Ella didn't mind. From the passenger's seat high above the ground, she watched her new neighborhood pass by.

Although Ella didn't mind, her twin brother Pete did. Pete, who was sitting in the back seat with Ella, groaned, "Oof . . . I don't feel so good."

"Almost there," Dad said, looking at the street signs for the right turn. "Hang on for just a bit longer."





“I’m not kidding,” Pete said, “I feel really bad. This truck is making my stomach hurt.”

Now Dad groaned. “Come on, Pete. We’re almost there.” But Pete kept groaning, so Dad pulled over and put on the brakes. “Ella, will you walk your little brother the rest of the way? Just follow the street to number 2729.”

Ella sighed. “Fine, I’ll walk him.” She opened her door, unbuckled herself, and hopped out onto the sidewalk. “C’mon, Petey,” she said.

“I’m not some kind of family pet, you know. I can walk on my own,” Pete said as he slid out of the truck.

Ella slammed the door shut. “Are you sure? It doesn’t look like it from what I can see.”

“You just watch,” Pete muttered as they began walking up the street toward their new home.



Ella didn’t answer. She heard a car rumble up behind them and honk twice. Mom waved as she drove past them in their station wagon, loaded down with stuff.

They were moving on to the newest street in the neighborhood. Out beyond their street, the land was vacant, with only some scattered trees, patches of grass, and a few signs advertising where new neighborhoods were going to be built. Half the houses they passed weren’t even finished yet. Ella could see the spaces where windows and doors would go.

For a second, she wondered if she and Pete would arrive at their new house only to find out that it wasn’t done, either. Ella imagined spending the first night sleeping without a roof over her head. *Ugh*, she thought to herself. *That would be the worst!*



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