

A New Outlook

1 Sarah slumped on the couch with her knees hanging over the edge. She lazily flipped through all of the channels with the TV remote control, but nothing caught her interest. Television seemed more mind-numbing this morning than usual, she thought. She turned the TV off. What can I do? Sarah wondered.

2 She sighed and looked out the window. It was a beautiful day. The sky was a brilliant blue, with only a few wispy clouds. The trees were nodding drowsily as a gentle breeze swayed their branches. She asked her mom if she could go for a walk.

3 As soon as Sarah stepped out into the bright sunlight, she felt immediately **invigorated**. Her sluggishness quickly gave way to a new sense of wonder. She noticed details that she often overlooked while in the car with her parents. Orange and yellow butterflies were resting on flowers and a chorus of birds burst into song for no apparent reason. Two squirrels chased one another around a tree. Sarah stopped to watch them. It was as if she were watching two children playing a stirring game of tag. One squirrel ran across the lawn and scampered up the trunk of a large tree while the other pursued it. Next the squirrels spiraled up the tree trunk, flitting their tails as they chattered to one another excitedly. Sarah sat on the lawn, watching the squirrels for some time.

4 "They're pretty amazing, aren't they?" a voice interrupted.

5 Sarah turned, startled by the sound of the voice, and was surprised to see a girl sitting on the front porch of the house nearby. Sarah recognized the girl immediately. She was the new girl who had just transferred to Sarah's school about a week ago. She was also in one of Sarah's classes. Sarah smiled and introduced herself. "Oh, hi. I know you. You're the new girl at my school. I'm Sarah."

6 "Yes, I recognize you too. My name is Haley," the other girl on the porch responded.

7 They fell silent for a moment, and then Sarah stammered, "I was so bored today that I thought I'd go for a walk around the neighborhood. The weather is grand."

8 "Yes, it is," agreed Haley. "That's why I came outside. I was bored, too."

9 Sarah considered how lonely Haley must feel moving to a new school and not knowing anyone. "Well, if you like, you could join me on my walk," she offered. "I mean, if you're not doing anything."

10 Haley's face lit up. "Sure," she said, grinning. "Let me just tell my mom where I'm going."

11 Sarah smiled. She suddenly realized that her so-called "boring" day had unexpectedly transformed into a day filled with the promise of a new friendship.

12 While they walked, suddenly Sarah tapped Haley on the shoulder and shouted, "Tag! You're it." She ran toward a large oak tree. The girls' laughter filled the air as Haley chased Sarah around the tree. High up in the oak tree, two tired squirrels rested on a branch and watched.

1. Choose the best definition for how the theme is described in literature.
 - a. Theme in literature is the way the characters act towards one another.
 - b. Theme in literature is the lesson or moral a character learns from conflicts in the text.**
 - c. Theme in literature is what the passage is mostly about featuring the character's name, the setting, and character actions.
 - d. Theme in literature is the development of the plot as it moves towards a resolution.
2. Using context clues, choose the best definition for the word **invigorated** found in paragraph 3.
 - a. To be filled with warmth.
 - b. To be overwhelmed with every emotion.
 - c. To be restored with energy and strength.**
 - d. To be drained and feel complete sadness.
3. Comprehension Question
4. Comprehension Question
5. Explain the lesson that Sarah learns in the passage. Use the R.A.C.E. method, making sure to include details and information from "A New Outlook" to support your answer.