



### ABOUT YOU

Answer the questions and compare your ideas.

- 1 What are your earliest memories?
- 2 How much do you know about your grandparents?
- 3 Is it important for you to know about your ancestors?
- 4 Why do people move house? Have you ever moved house?
- 5 How do you think people feel when they move to a different place?

Sissy is a young girl living in a small town in the USA in the late 1800's. She tells us about her friends and family and the place she lives. But early in her story, Sissy tells us that she wants to go home. She used to live somewhere else with her parents and two brothers. She talks about living with her grandmother, but it is only later in the book that she describes the life she used to have.

- 1 Read the text. As you read, think about this question.  
How does Sissy feel about her father?

### My Young Days

#### Anonymous

Now, I feel rather ashamed of myself because I haven't **told you anything about** who I was, or where I came from. I began in the middle by saying, "I want to go home," but never told you anything about where my home was, nor what it was.

- 5 Well, to tell you the truth, I did not know much about my family history in those early days. I knew that my name was Mary Emily Marshall, **commonly** called Sissy. I also knew that my father was "the gentleman that makes all the sick people well,"—"or tries to," as Jane, who worked in our house, would add. Of course, I knew if my papa was **determined** to do anything, he did it.
- 10 We lived in the countryside a long way from the city among the poor people, and we were not rich ourselves. My mother had been born in this beautiful house I was taken to and it's where I live now. I know now that there was a lot of trouble when she married the country doctor. He loved the poor people so much that he would not leave them. He could have moved away and grown rich and **honoured** as a London doctor. But now there was no grandfather left to be angry.
- 15 But with grandmother, though we had never seen her, we loved her for the beautiful presents she sent us.



- 25 There were only three of us at this time— myself, Bobbie, a boy of four years old, and Willie, the white-faced, **delicate** baby who was six months old. Oh, how well I remember the old house, with its great lamp **dangling** out over the lonely road, and shining among the trees, to show the villagers the way to their good, kind friend, the doctor. We were happy, Bobbie and I, in that old house at the top of the hill. I don't think any brothers and sisters were ever quite such good
- 30 friends. There were three years between us, but I was little and he was big, so nobody ever thought who the elder was. The great treat of the day was the board game with papa in the evening, but that couldn't be counted upon. Very often he would have to leave the dinner-table suddenly, and when
- 35 we heard the **peculiar** slam of the hall-door before the bell rang to **summon** us down, we knew that the game was over.

### GLOSSARY

<b>commonly</b>	often or usually
<b>determined</b>	wanting to do something very much and not letting anyone stop you
<b>honoured</b>	a respect for someone or something, usually in public
<b>fretful</b>	behaving in a way that shows you are unhappy, worried or uncomfortable
<b>dangling</b>	to hang loosely, or to hold something so that it hangs loosely
<b>delicate</b>	needing care
<b>peculiar</b>	belonging to or relating to a particular person or thing
<b>summon</b>	to officially order someone to come to a place

**2** Read the text again and answer the questions.

- 1 What do we learn about Sissy’s grandparents?  
.....  
.....
- 2 Why do you think Sissy’s father would sometimes leave the game they were playing?  
.....  
.....
- 3 Why do you think Sissy was taken to live with her grandmother?  
.....  
.....
- 4 What kind of relationship did Sissy have with her brother?  
.....  
.....
- 5 Do you think Sissy will be able to ‘go home’? Why/why not?  
.....  
.....

**VOCABULARY**

**3** Match each sentence heading with its ending.

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1 My best friend is determined ...                              | a ... after winning the world cup.    |
| 2 The glass statue broke because ...                            | b ... a wild rose.                    |
| 3 The national team was honoured by the president ...           | c ... dangerously from the ceiling.   |
| 4 The flower has a scientific name but is commonly known as ... | d ... it was so delicate.             |
| 5 Some electrical cables dangled ...                            | e ... to travel to Australia one day. |

**4** Complete the sentences with a word or phrase from the box, changing the word form if necessary.

delicate    determined    peculiar    summon

- 1 The player was ..... to the coach’s office after he was late for a game.
- 2 Jane is really ..... to be a doctor when she is older.
- 3 Some flowers are very ..... and need a lot of light and water.
- 4 There is always a strong and ..... smell of cheese in their house.

**WRITING**

**5** Continue this list with as many board games you can think of:

Monopoly, Chess ...

.....  
.....  
**Then work with a partner. Choose ONE game from your list and write the basic rules, explaining how the game is played. When you have finished, read your rules to another pair. Try to write your rules in about 120 words.**

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**SPEAKING**

**6** Work in small groups and discuss the pros and cons of each alternative in 1-5. What are the pros and cons of ...

- 1 having a job you love but doesn’t pay much or having a job you don’t like but that pays well?
- 2 being part of a large family or being part of a small family?
- 3 living in a crowded city or living in a very small village?
- 4 living in the same place all your life or living in different places?
- 5 being really good at one sport or being not bad at a number of different sports?