

Dad's First Day

Read to see why Dad is upset.

¹ I think Dad is nervous. At breakfast, he almost poured milk into his orange juice instead of into his cereal bowl! Mom doesn't seem worried. She knows why Dad is a little upset. Today is his first day at a new job.

² My dad builds bridges. Some of them look heavy and strong. Others look light, as if they are just hanging in the air. Dad says the light bridges are just as strong as the heavy ones.

³ Dad is an excellent bridge builder, even at home. Once, we almost filled my whole room with bridges. We used boxes, blocks, pots, pans, and even the dog's dish. It was great.

⁴ I know Dad has tons of great bridge ideas, so he shouldn't be nervous. I guess he just wants to practice making one more bridge before he goes to work.



Vocabulary Skills

Write the words from the story that have these meanings.

1. jumpy

_____ (Par. 1)

2. very, very good

_____ (Par. 3)

3. to repeat an action

_____ (Par. 4)



Reading Skills

1. What kinds of bridges does Dad build?

2. Why is Dad nervous?

3. How does the boy know that Dad is nervous?

4. What kind of bridge did the boy and Dad make at home?

Bridges

What kinds of bridges are there?

¹ Have you ever stepped on a stone to get across a puddle or stream? If you have, you were using a bridge.

² Bridges are different sizes and shapes. Some bridges have straight “legs,” or supports, called *beams*. Other bridges have curved supports, called *arches*. Still others actually hang from strong steel ropes, or cables, that are strung above the surface of the

bridge. The cables are then attached to the land on either end of the bridge.

³ Most bridges go over water, but some bridges were made to carry water. About 2,000 years ago, the Romans built this kind of bridge. One such bridge, in France, had three levels. Water flowed in the top level, and people and carts traveled on the two lower levels.



Vocabulary Skills

Add **s** to a word to show more than one.

1. one bridge

two _____

2. one beam

two _____

3. one cable

many _____

4. one year

eight _____

Circle the best word for each sentence. Then, write it in the blank.

5. A bridge's supports might be called its _____.

arms legs eyes

6. A bridge with curves underneath has _____.

arches cables beams

Reading Skills

1. This passage is mostly about

_____ old bridges.

_____ kinds of bridges.

_____ making bridges.

2. The author wrote this selection to

_____ make you laugh.

_____ help you learn.

3. Think about what you already know about bridges. What are bridges for?

4. This passage tells about another use for bridges. What is it?

Bridges to Remember

Read to find out what is special about these bridges.

¹ Some people do not like to drive across bridges. They look straight ahead and try to hold their breath until they get to the other side. Good luck if those people are driving in Louisiana. There is a 24-mile-long bridge there! It takes about half an hour to get across.

² If you like to look way, way down when you cross a bridge, you should go to Colorado.

A bridge there stands more than a thousand feet above a river. A 75-story building could fit under that bridge!

³ If you do not like to look down, get in the middle lane of a bridge in Australia. It has eight lanes for cars, two train tracks, a bike path, and a sidewalk.

⁴ Finally, if you like crowds and bridges, go to India. A bridge there carries 100,000 cars and trucks every day, plus thousands of walkers.



Vocabulary Skills

The words *walked*, *walks*, and *walking* all have the same base word, *walk*. Write the base word for each set of words below.

1. looks, looked, looking

2. crossing, crossed, crosses

3. driven, drives, driving

4. carries, carried, carrying

Reading Skills

1. How does the text help you understand how long a 24-mile-long bridge is?

2. How does the text help you understand how high the bridge in Colorado is?

3. If you do not like to look over the side of a bridge, why would the bridge in Australia be a good one to cross?

4. Why is the bridge in India a bridge to remember?

Moving-Out Day

Read to see how Emily feels about moving.

¹ *There goes another box, thought Emily. All my stuff is in boxes. It's all getting squashed together.*

² Mom stood on the front steps. "Oh, be careful with that one!" she cried. The movers nodded as they went past. *All my stuff is in boxes, thought Mom. It might all get broken.*

³ Dad came out of the garage. "Wow, this is a heavy

one! It might break everything else." Mom and Emily frowned.

⁴ An hour later, the boxes were still going past. One box had holes in it. Emily had made the holes so her stuffed animals could get some air.

⁵ Finally, they all watched the movers close up the truck. *Ka-thunk* went the big doors. Dad gave Emily a little hug. "One empty house and one full truck. That's a good day's work."



Vocabulary Skills

The missing word in each sentence ends with an **s**. Write the correct word in the blank.

1. The movers carried many heavy brown _____.
2. Emily made _____ in one box.
3. Emily thought her stuffed _____ might need air.



Reading Skills

1. What do Mom and Emily worry about?

2. Circle the word that best tells how Emily feels about her stuffed animals.

hopeless caring harsh
3. What word best tells how Mom feels? Circle it.

relaxed worried careless
4. How do you think Dad feels about moving day?

5. What clues in the story help you know how Dad feels?

