

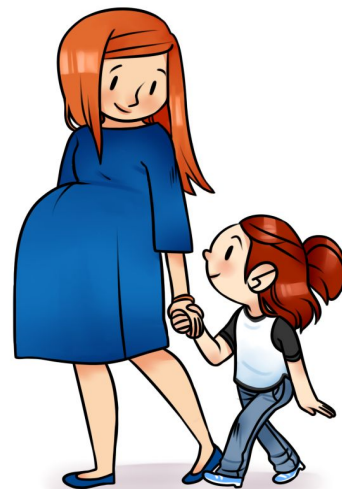
Name: _____

Big Cousin, Big Responsibility

By Kelly Hashway

Charla sat on her Aunt Monica's front porch swing and stared at the birds perched in the big oak tree on the lawn.

"Lucky birds, you can fly to the beach. I have to stay here all day and work." Charla was visiting Aunt Monica for the week, helping her around the house. Aunt Monica was eight months pregnant, and since Charla was on spring break, her mother thought it would be nice to help Aunt Monica set up the house for the new baby. Charla wasn't happy about it though. Monica was her favorite aunt, and now she'd have to share her with a new baby.



"What are you doing out here?" Aunt Monica asked, stepping onto the porch.

"Getting some fresh air." Charla had been helping Aunt Monica paint the baby's room all morning.

Aunt Monica took a deep breath. "It smells like spring. Hey, how about we go for a walk?"

Charla looked at Aunt Monica's big belly. "Are you sure you're up for it?"

"Yeah, it's good for me. Come on."

Charla and Aunt Monica always took walks together. The beach was only about a mile away, but Charla wondered if that was too far for Aunt Monica now.

They headed down the road and to the end of the development. Charla wanted to turn right like they usually did, but she hesitated. "We can turn back if you want."

Aunt Monica shook her head. "To the beach."

It took longer than usual, but they made it to the beach. Charla sat down on the swings

at the playground, and Aunt Monica did the same.

"I really appreciate all your help getting ready for the baby."

Charla forced a smile. She wanted to be happy about having a new cousin but she felt like she was losing her favorite aunt.

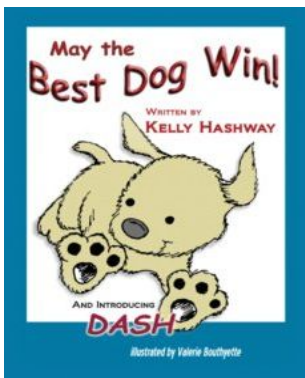
"You know, I'm going to need even more help after the baby arrives."

Charla's eyes widened as she thought about changing dirty diapers.

"You're the greatest kid I know, and I'd love it if you taught your new cousin all about birds and the beach. In fact, I'd like you to help me think of a name for her, too."

"Help name the new baby? Really? That would be great," Charla said, already making a mental list of her favorite names.

About the Author



Kelly Hashway's picture book, *May the Best Dog Win*, is now available!

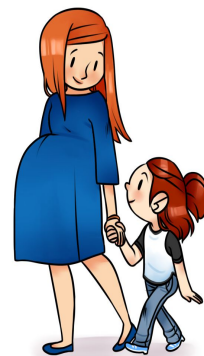
Dash has the perfect life until the Super Sweeper 5000 shows up. Sweeper runs all over the house sucking up the leftover food scraps, and he even gets his own room! But Dash won't give up his place as the favorite dog without a fight.

Hashway, Kelly. *May the Best Dog Win*. ISBN: 9780984589081

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1. Why did Charla and her mother go to visit Aunt Monica?
 - a. They went to see Aunt Monica's baby.
 - b. They wanted to go for a walk with Aunt Monica.
 - c. They wanted to ask Aunt Monica an important question.
 - d. They went to help Aunt Monica prepare for the arrival of her baby.

2. During which month might this story take place?
 - a. January
 - b. August
 - c. October
 - d. March

Tell how you figured out the answer to the question above.

3. Aunt Monica and Charla walked...
 - a. to the beach
 - b. to the store
 - c. to school
 - d. to the hospital

4. Think about the following sentence from the story and answer the question.

She wanted to be happy about having a new cousin but she felt like she was losing her favorite aunt.

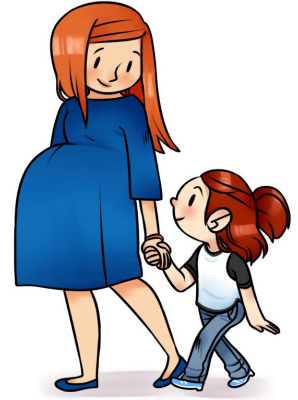
What does this sentence mean?

Name: _____

Big Cousin, Big Responsibility

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Match each vocabulary word on the left with the definition on the right.



- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. _____ perched | a. in the mind |
| 2. _____ favorite | b. mother or father's sister |
| 3. _____ breath | c. aunt or uncle's son or daughter |
| 4. _____ appreciate | d. inhale or exhale |
| 5. _____ cousin | e. paused before saying or doing something |
| 6. _____ aunt | f. stood on |
| 7. _____ hesitated | g. to be grateful |
| 8. _____ mental | h. most liked |

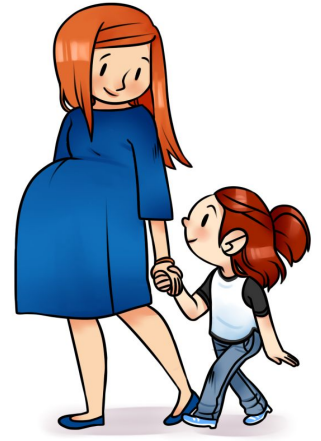
❖ **Now try this:** Find each of the words above in the story and highlight them.

Name: _____

Big Cousin, Big Responsibility

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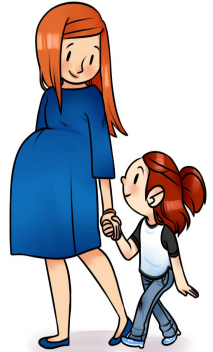
In the story, "Big Cousin, Big Responsibility," Charla and her mother visit Aunt Monica to help prepare the house for Aunt Monica's new baby. They help paint the baby's bedroom. Describe some of the other things that have to be done to prepare for a new baby's arrival.

[illegible]

ANSWER KEY

Big Cousin, Big Responsibility

By Kelly Hashway



1. Why did Charla and her mother go to visit Aunt Monica? **d**
 - a. They went to see Aunt Monica's baby.
 - b. They wanted to go for a walk with Aunt Monica.
 - c. They wanted to ask Aunt Monica an important question.
 - d. **They went to help Aunt Monica prepare for the arrival of her baby.**
2. During which month might this story take place? **d**
 - a. January
 - b. August
 - c. October
 - d. **March**

Tell how you figured out the answer to the question above.

In the story, it says Charla is on spring break. January, August, and October are not spring months.

3. Aunt Monica and Charla walked... **a**
 - a. **to the beach**
 - b. to the store
 - c. to school
 - d. to the hospital

4. Think about the following sentence from the story and answer the question.

She wanted to be happy about having a new cousin but she felt like she was losing her favorite aunt.

What does this sentence mean?

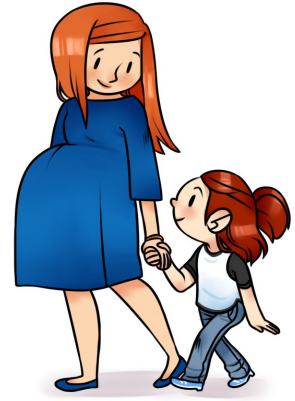
The sentence means Charla is worried that her aunt may not be able to spend as much time with her. She is happy that she will have a new cousin, but she doesn't want to lose the close relationship she has with her aunt.

ANSWER KEY

Big Cousin, Big Responsibility

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Match each vocabulary word on the left with the definition on the right.



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