

3

The next day, Sam began to make some changes in his life. No more cookies at lunch, no more cake for dessert, and no sweets in the afternoon. It was hard. All day his stomach made funny noises. At night he dreamed about big and delicious meals. He also began to exercise with Susan. They jogged every morning before work. This was even harder than the diet.

"We're crazy," Sam told his wife one morning. It was raining. "My legs hurt and I'm cold."

"Think about Italy or California," Susan said.

Sam really just wanted a warm bath and breakfast, but he thought about sunny beaches. He thought about a picnic with bread and cheese and Italian wine.

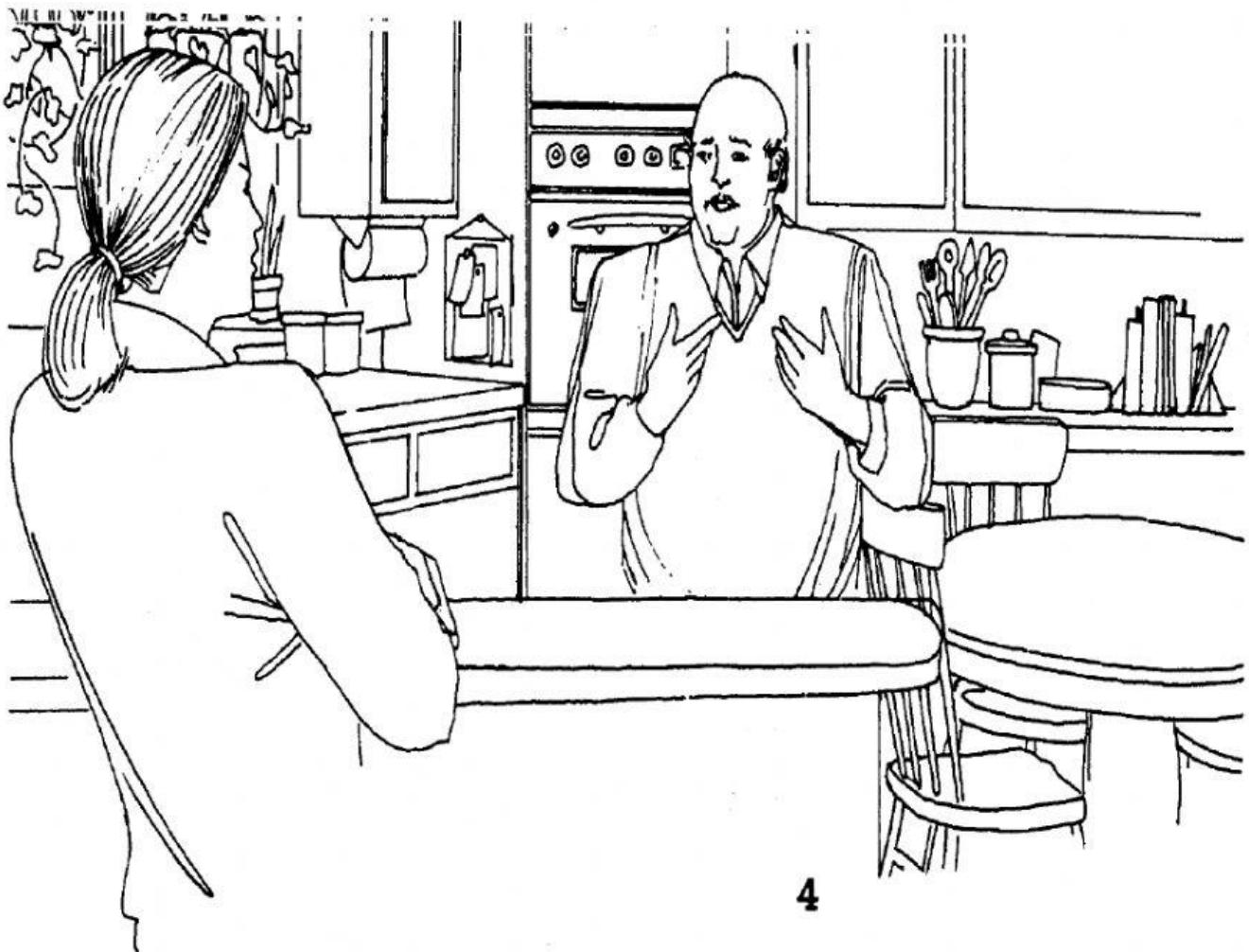
"Let's go to Italy," he said to Susan when they got home. "Everyone says the food is wonderful and the people are very friendly."

"Jane says the same thing about California," Susan said. "She says San Francisco is the most beautiful city."

They decided to get more information from a travel agent. She told them a trip to California was cheaper and easier to plan. But she said Italy was more unusual and exciting. "You have to decide what you want for your vacation," she explained. "They're both beautiful places."

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is about
 - a. new problems and questions in the Diamonds' life.
 - b. how crazy Susan and Sam are every morning.
 - c. taking a vacation.
 - d. what their children and friends tell them.
2. Sam dreamed about
 - a. jogging.
 - b. food.
 - c. Italy.
 - d. a vacation.
3. Sam did not enjoy
 - a. jogging.
 - b. eating.
 - c. traveling.
 - d. dreaming.
4. Susan told Sam to think about Italy or California
 - a. because she wanted to go there.
 - b. to help him.
 - c. to make him tired.
 - d. because she was cold.
5. Everyone says the people in Italy are
 - a. beautiful.
 - b. friendly.
 - c. rich.
 - d. unfriendly.
6. According to Jane, the most beautiful city is
 - a. New York.
 - b. San Francisco.
 - c. Rome.
 - d. California.
7. Susan and Sam went to a travel agent
 - a. in New York.
 - b. to buy plane tickets.
 - c. on their way home.
 - d. to find out more about Italy and California.
8. The travel agent told the Diamonds that
 - a. Italy and California are both beautiful places.
 - b. California is the best place for a vacation.
 - c. Italy is the best place for a vacation.
 - d. California and Italy are terrible places.



4

This was the beginning of an unhappy time for the Diamonds. After they went to the travel agent, Susan wanted to go to California. But Sam wanted to go to Italy.

"We want to change our lives, don't we?" he asked Susan. "Then we should go someplace really different!"

"But Italy's so expensive," Susan answered. "We're not millionaires!"

"We waited for many years, our whole lives, for this vacation!" said Sam. "We may not get another chance. You know, we're not getting any younger!"

"You just want to go to Italy because of the food!" said Susan.

"That's not true!"

"You'll eat too much and get sick," said Susan. "I know you. You'll never be able to diet in Italy!"

And so, they began to argue. They argued while they were jogging. They argued at breakfast. They argued at dinner. And all the time they were in a terrible mood. They didn't enjoy the things they used to enjoy. They stopped going to parties and they didn't invite friends over for dinner. Sam didn't talk much to his patients. Susan didn't want to work in her garden. Even the pets were unhappy. The cat ran away and the dog hid under the bed.

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is about
 - a. how Sam wants to go to Italy.
 - b. why Susan doesn't want to go to Italy.
 - c. an unhappy time for Susan and Sam.
 - d. a terrible mood.
2. Sam wanted to go to Italy because
 - a. it's very different.
 - b. it's not very different.
 - c. it's expensive.
 - d. he's not a millionaire.
3. Susan thought Sam wanted to go to Italy because of
 - a. his heart.
 - b. his diet.
 - c. the Italian food.
 - d. her diet.
4. Sam thought they probably were
 - a. going to take another vacation.
 - b. not going to get another chance to travel.
 - c. going to travel often after this.
 - d. not going to go to Italy.
5. Susan and Sam were arguing about
 - a. where to take their vacation.
 - b. Sam's diet.
 - c. their friends.
 - c. about food.
6. They did not visit their friends because they
 - a. were not getting any younger.
 - b. were not millionaires.
 - c. were not home.
 - d. were in a terrible mood.
7. Susan thought Italian food was
 - a. healthy for Sam.
 - b. unhealthy for Sam.
 - c. too expensive.
 - d. good for a diet.
8. The dog hid under the bed because
 - a. it liked arguing.
 - b. it was not getting any younger.
 - c. it did not like Susan.
 - d. it did not like arguing.



5

Then one evening in the middle of an argument, the telephone rang. Susan answered it. Jane was calling from California and she was very excited.

"Guess what?" she said. "I have a new job! My company is sending me to New York."

"That's wonderful!" said Susan. "What kind of job? When are you coming?"

"The job starts in six weeks. I'll be the manager of the New York office. I'll help them sell more computers in New York."

"Six weeks! What will you do about your apartment there in San Francisco? Where will you live in New York?"

"I'll have to give up this apartment. In New York I'll look for a new place. I'm excited about the job and I'm excited about New York. But they say it's really hard to find a nice apartment there."

"You can stay here, of course, until you find something," said Susan.

"Thank you," said Jane. "What about your vacation? Are you still going?"

"We couldn't decide where to go," said Susan. "I wanted to go to California. Your father wanted to go to Italy. California's not the same without you. So I guess it'll be Italy after all. But not right away. We want to see you first."

Circle the best answer.

1. This passage is about
 - a. moving to New York.
 - b. a telephone call from Jane.
 - c. apartments in New York.
 - d. a new job.
2. Jane was very excited about
 - a. San Francisco.
 - b. moving to New York.
 - c. her parents.
 - d. a vacation.
3. Jane's company
 - a. sells computers.
 - b. sells apartments.
 - c. makes telephones.
 - d. is a travel agency.
4. Jane's new job starts
 - a. next year.
 - b. next week.
 - c. in three years.
 - d. in six weeks.
5. Jane was worried about
 - a. living with her parents
 - b. finding an apartment in New York.
 - c. finding an apartment in San Francisco.
 - d. leaving San Francisco.
6. Jane thought that apartments in New York
 - a. were expensive.
 - b. were exciting.
 - c. were hard to find.
 - d. were nice.
7. Jane will
 - a. probably stay with her parents.
 - b. stay in a hotel.
 - c. stay with friends.
 - d. find an apartment right away.
8. Now Susan and Sam will probably
 - a. go to California.
 - b. never go on vacation.
 - c. go to New York.
 - d. go to Italy.