Laura McKenzie is going to celebrate her 85th birthday doing what she loves the most – travelling by train.

Laura, a retired nurse from Scotland, has spent more than fifty years exploring Europe by train. She is now on her fifth passport and hopes to reach Venice for her next birthday. Her first trip abroad was to Italy and Switzerland in 1962. Since then, she has made at least two trips every year. However, she has never owned a car!

Laura says: *"When I started travelling, flights were too expensive for me. Trains were the only affordable way to discover new places. I have visited more than thirty countries so far, and I've met wonderful people everywhere. Travelling alone teaches you a lot about yourself."*

Her adventures have taken her from the snowy Alps to the deserts of Morocco. She once travelled with shepherds in Greece, shared a small boat in Norway, and even slept in an old train station in Spain. The longest she has ever waited for a train connection was ten hours.

One of her scariest moments was in Turkey, when the train suddenly stopped in the middle of nowhere during the night. But she says that travelling is not dangerous if you stay calm and pay attention.

Over the years, Laura has made lifelong friends across the continent. Many of them come to visit her small cottage near Edinburgh, where they share memories over tea and homemade biscuits.

GLOSSARY:

affordable = accesible, barato

shepherd = pastor (persona que cuida ovejas)

Questions:

a) When did Laura travel abroad for the first time?

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b) Why did she start travelling by train?

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c) How many countries has she visited?

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d) What does she think about travelling alone?

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e) Has she ever been scared? Why? What happened?

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LIVEWORKSHEETS