

# Summarize Literature

## Waldo McWillerbee: Magician

Waldo McWillerbee wanted to be a magician. With a funny name like Waldo McWillerbee, what else *could* he be besides a magician? A banker? Certainly not a banker! With a name like Waldo McWillerbee, he was meant to entertain the world, and he was determined to do just that with his wondrous, wonderful magic.

For his first trick, he would make his mother's prized antique vase float in the air. The vase was simply beautiful! It was over a hundred years old, and it had tiny blue and gold flowers painted all over it. He covered the vase in his magical handkerchief. He took the vase in his hands—one hand holding the top, and the other hand supporting the bottom. He chanted, "Scmoozy, Foozy, Kitten Hairy! Make this vase float in the air-y!" He released the vase. BAM! Tiny glass pieces with blue and gold flowers showered the floor.

Then Waldo McWillerbee knew he must perform a magician's most important trick of all: make himself disappear! Off Waldo McWillerbee ran to hide under the bed!

Which line **best** shows an idea that is important to include in a summary of this story?

- A. Certainly not a banker!
- B. Off Waldo McWillerbee ran to hide under the bed!
- C. He took the vase in his hands . . .
- D. He covered the vase in his magical handkerchief.

## The New House

by J. Robbins

### CHARACTERS:

JADEN, *the older brother*

ELI, *the younger brother*

TALIA, *the older sister*

SAMARA, *the younger sister*

FATHER, *a very busy scientist*

MOTHER, *a very busy teacher*

**Setting:** The inside of the Daveed family's new house. The house is very big and has many empty rooms. One rainy day, the kids decide to explore the upstairs rooms. Each room they enter is dark and full of old furniture and paintings.

### Act 1

#### Scene 1

*(Three of the kids enter an empty room. They look around curiously. Samara hides on the other side of the door.)*

SAMARA: *(speaking from behind the door)* I don't like this room, you guys. It is too dark. Maybe we should go back downstairs and watch a movie.

JADEN: Don't worry, little sis. I brought a flashlight. *(He turns on the flashlight and shines it around the room. Samara slowly walks into the room, still afraid.)*

ELI: Cool! I wish I had brought my flashlight. Let me hold that one, Jaden. *(He grabs Jaden's arm.)*

JADEN: *(pushes Eli away)* No! Quit grabbing my arm, Eli.

*(The boys wrestle for the flashlight.)*

TALIA: Hey, cut it out, you guys. We don't want to bother Father.

SAMARA: *(sadly)* What is Father doing, anyway? I hardly ever see him anymore.

ELI: You know Father. He is downstairs in his laboratory, doing experiments.

JADEN: *(excited)* Hey, look at this!

*(The kids gather around Jaden, who is holding up a book that is covered in dust and spider webs.)*

SAMARA: It looks like an old diary. Who do you think it belonged to?

JADEN: Let's open it and find out!

*(The kids gather around to read by the light of the flashlight.)*

#### **End Scene 1.**

Which of the following **best** summarizes the drama?

- A. Feeling brave on a rainy day, the Daveed siblings search an empty dark room using a flashlight, and they find old paintings and furniture.
- B. The Daveed siblings decide to explore their new house, but Samara is too scared to go into the dark room.
- C. Feeling bored in their new house, the Daveed siblings decide to explore a dark, empty room one rainy day, and find an old diary there.
- D. The Daveed siblings decide to explore their new house, but Eli and Jaden end up having a fight.

Randy and Monica had the best idea for Grandma's birthday. They would throw her a surprise party! They told Mom and Dad, who were very excited about it. They offered to

help with anything the kids needed.

After weeks of planning, the party had started. Monica greeted the guests and helped them with refreshments. Randy made sure they had enough food for everyone. He was also in charge of watching for Grandma. Everyone was having a great time. Grandma was set to arrive any minute now.

Over an hour later, Grandma still wasn't there. Randy and Monica started to worry. They had planned every detail of what would happen and when, down to what they would tell Grandma to get her to come to the house. All of a sudden, Monica rushed over to Randy.

"Randy, we forgot to invite Grandma!" Monica said.

Which of the following **best** summarizes the story?

- A. Randy and Monica had refreshments and food at Grandma's surprise birthday party. Everyone was having a great time, but then they realized that they forgot Grandma.
- B. Randy and Monica waited for an hour for Grandma to come to her surprise party. Everyone was starting to get worried. Monica yelled, "Randy, we forgot to invite Grandma!"
- C. Randy and Monica got help from their parents to throw Grandma's surprise party. Mom and Dad were very excited about the party. They forgot to invite Grandma, though.
- D. Randy and Monica planned a great surprise party for Grandma's birthday. After all of the guests arrived, Randy and Monica realized that they forgot to invite Grandma.

One afternoon, Stefan was walking home from the park. He had been playing baseball with his friends. Stefan was remembering a great catch he made when he heard a strange noise above him. He looked up and saw a cat stuck in a tree!

Stefan thought for a minute. It looked like Mrs. Nelson's cat. She would be upset if it got hurt. He tried to climb the tree, but he could not reach the lowest branch.

"Come on, kitty," Stefan called. "Come down from that tree. I'll catch you."

The cat just sat there. Stefan tried calling again, but nothing. He turned around to see if anyone was coming by, when the cat decided to jump. Before Stefan could put his arms out to catch it, the cat landed on his shoulder.

"Oh, you sweet boy!" Mrs. Nelson called. "You saved my cat! Stefan, you are my hero today!"

"It was nothing," Stefan grinned. He sure didn't feel like a hero, but why not enjoy this for a while?

Which of the following **best** summarizes the story?

- A. Mrs. Nelson called Stefan a hero after her cat jumped from the tree without any help. Stefan was just walking home from the park after a game.
- B. Stefan tried to climb the tree and called to the cat to get it to come down from the tree. Mrs. Nelson called Stefan her hero for saving the cat.
- C. Stefan tried to climb a tree to save Mrs. Nelson's cat that was stuck. The cat jumped down by itself, but Stefan still acted like a hero to Mrs. Nelson.
- D. Stefan walked home from the park where he had been playing baseball with friends. He looked up and saw Mrs. Nelson's cat stuck in the t