JOURNEY TO A NEW LIFE

For hundreds of years, people have come to the United States from other countries seeking a better life. One of the first sights to greet many immigrants is the Statue of Liberty. This is the story of Tatiana and her journey to the United States.

In 1909, when Tatiana was just 11 years old, her parents and older brother travelled to the United States. Because the family could not afford to buy her a ticket, she had to remain in Russia. She had lived with her uncle and cousins for almost a year in a small and crowded house before the special letter arrived from her father. "Dear Tatiana," he wrote. "At last we have earned enough money to pay for your ticket. After you join us in New York, we will travel by train to a place called South Dakota where we have bought a farm."

A week later, Tatiana's uncle took her into the city of St. Petersburg, and using the money her father had sent, bought her a ticket for the Louisa Jane, a steamship that was leaving for America. Tatiana clutched her bag nervously and walked up the ramp onto the steamship that would be her home until she reached America. She listened to the ship's whistle give a piercing blast and then leaned over the railing to wave good-bye to her uncle.

Although she was lonely and missed her family, Tatiana quickly made friends with the other children aboard the Louisa Jane. Together, they invented games that could be played on the ship, and they ran around the decks. One afternoon, tired of being pestered with questions, the ship's engineer gave them a tour of the engines.

The next day, as Tatiana was walking along the deck, she heard some of the passengers talking about the Statue of Liberty. This conversation confused her because she knew that liberty was an idea; it was intangible. No one could see or touch it, so how could you make a statue of liberty? When she asked her friend's father, Mr. Dim- itrivitch, he explained that the statue looked like a woman, but it represented freedom. This explanation just made Tatiana more curious to see the statue for herself.

One morning, Tatiana woke up to the sound of wild shouting. Convinced that the ship must be sinking, she grabbed her lifejacket

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and ran upstairs. All of the passengers were crowded onto the deck, but the ship wasn't sinkng. The shouts were really cries of excitement because the Louisa Jane had finally reached the United States. When Tatiana realized that she would soon see her family again, she joined in with shouts of her own.
As the Louisa Jane came closer to shore, the tall figure of a woman holding a torch became visible on the hori- zon. The cries died away and the passengers stared in awed silence at the Statue of Liberty. Tatiana gazed at the woman's solemn face as the ship steamed past. Mr. Dimitrivitch had told her that the statue represented freedom, and she finally understood what he meant. At that moment, Tatiana knew that she was free to start her new life.

QUESTIONS

For Tatiana, the Statue of Liberty was a symbol of
a. a new beginning.
b. interesting ideas.
c. the excitement of traveling.
d. the ability to earn money.

2. Which words in the story tell the reader that these events took place long ago?
a. " . . . stared in awed silence at the Statue of Liberty"
b. ". . . a steamship that was leaving for the United States"
c. ". . . she was lonely and missed her family . . ."
d. ". . . Tatiana's uncle took her into the city . . ."

3. The engineer showed the children the ship's engines because
a. he was tired of answering their many questions.
b. the parents asked him to amuse their children.
c. Tatiana had asked him to do so.
d. the tour was included in the price of the tickets.

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4. The best way to learn more about the kind of ship described in this story would be to

a. ask someone who builds sailboats.

b. read a book about the immigrants in New York.

c. visit a port where large ships dock.

d. look in an encyclopedia under Steamships.

5. Which emotion did the passengers on the ship feel when they saw the statue?

a. excitement b. awe

c. loneliness d. regret

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