

Dear Grandmother,

Our family has moved to this new place. It is a small place right now, but Father says it will grow into a city. Right now, if we need something we have to make it or trade for it. Mother says that some day we will be able to buy things at a store. Since there is no store here now, we have to make things or trade for them. Mother keeps patching my clothes because she says we can't go to the store and buy new clothes.

It took us such a long time to get here. First, we traveled by wagon, and then we traveled on a boat. We carried our things in a big trunk. It was very heavy, and it slipped off the boat. Mother said, "Don't worry, it is made of wood, so it will float." Father got the captain to turn the boat around so we could go back and get the trunk.

I remember how nice it was where we used to live with you. There were stores. I had friends to play with, and I really liked it there. But Father said we should move here. He said we would have a better life. I miss my friends. I have met children who live near us and I hope they will be my friends. Right now, I am so busy helping that I don't have time to play with them. I don't have time to go to school, but that is not a problem because there is no school in this small community.

When we first got here, we did not even have a home. We lived in a tent until Father built a small house. It has just a few rooms, but Mother says we will build another room soon for the baby.

Mother has just had a new baby, and I am helping with the baby. He cries at night. I hold him and rock him and then he smiles at me. You would be glad to see him.

It is going to be warmer soon, and Father says we will have more food. We will be planting a garden. Mother has some of the potatoes you gave us. She says she can use them to grow more potatoes. I didn't know how to grow potatoes, but now I am learning about growing food.

I miss you and grandfather all the time. I hope you can come to visit us. Father says he needs some tools and Mother wants cloth, so if you could come soon and bring those things we would be very grateful.

Identify/Classify Sequence – Fiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2007.

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. What was the first thing that the family did before they moved to Chicago?

- a. They said goodbye to friends.
- b. They packed their trunk.
- c. The father decided to move.
- d. They built a home.

3. Which of these happened after the family got to Chicago?

- a. They opened a business.
- b. They had a baby.
- c. They bought potatoes.
- d. They lost their trunk.

2. What did the family do to get to Chicago?

- a. First they traveled on a wagon then on a boat.
- b. First they traveled on a boat then on a wagon.
- c. First they built a wagon.
- d. They bought a home.

4. What happened after the trunk fell off the boat?

- a. They had to buy new clothes.
- b. They went back to get it.
- c. They got wet.
- d. They traveled on a wagon.

5. *Write your own answer to this question. What would the family do in spring?*

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students' Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student's achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	c	a	b	b

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.
Plant food.