

The Family Vacation

One day while Phillip was up in his rooming playing with his toy trucks, his father walked in. He looked very serious. "Hey, Big Guy," said Dad, as he sat on his bed. "I've got some bad news for you. Do you think you can handle it?"

"Yeah, I can handle it," said Phillip. "What is it?"

"We aren't going to the beach this year," said Dad.

"Why not?" asked Phillip.

"Since I lost my job, we just don't have enough money for extra things," said Dad. Phillip could tell that his father was really sad about not being able to take the family to the beach.

"It's okay, Dad," said Phillip. "I didn't really want to go anyway."

"Liar," said Dad, as he playfully hit Phillip on the head with a pillow. Phillip and his father had a quick pillow fight, then his father went out for his afternoon run.

After Phillip's father left the room, Phillip sat on the bed and thought about how much he was going to miss going to the beach. He would miss staying in a fancy hotel for a whole week, building sand castles, and playing in the beautiful green water.

"There has to be something I can do about this," thought Phillip. Phillip thought for a minute, then he had a great idea. He remembered that his friend, Emily, and her family had taken a stay-cation. Emily and her family had found a lot of fun things to do, right in the town of Summerville.

Phillip ran down the stairs excitedly. He interrupted his mother, who was sitting at the table paying bills. "Mom, I've got a great idea!" exclaimed Phillip.

"Well, tell me," said Mom, looking up from her laptop computer. "What is your great idea?"

"We should take a stay-cation," said Phillip.



“What in the world is a stay-cation?” asked Mom.

“A stay-cation is when you take a vacation in your own city or town,” explained Phillip. “My friend, Emily, and her family took one a few weeks ago. They did a bunch of cool things, right here in Summerville. They went to the children’s museum, the park, and a whole lot of other fun places.”

“Well,” said Mom. “That sounds like a great idea. We can start planning it right now.”

For the next several hours, Phillip and his mother used the internet to plan their family stay-cation. They planned a fun week full of hiking, biking, swimming and much, much more.

After they finished planning their stay-cation, Phillip gave his mother a big hug. “This is going to be the best stay-cation ever,” said Phillip. “I can’t wait to tell Dad.”

Write a summary of the story.

The main character of the story is _____

He/She wants to _____

_____, but _____

At the end of the story, _____

I liked /disliked this story because _____

Answer the following questions about the selection.

1. **What is this selection *mainly* about?**
 - A. Phillip and his dad having a pillow fight
 - B. Phillip and his family going to the beach and staying in a fancy hotel
 - C. Phillip playing with his truck
 - D. Phillip planning a stay-cation because his family can't go to the beach

 2. **During the selection, Phillip goes from being _____ to _____.**
 - A. happy to sad
 - B. mad to happy
 - C. sad to happy
 - D. happy to angry
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Critical Thinking

1. Choose a word to describe Phillip. Why did you choose this word?

2. Choose a word to describe Phillip's father. Why did you choose this word?

3. Choose a word to describe Phillip's mother. Why did you choose this word?

Research

Use the following chart to plan your own stay-cation. For each day of the week, list at least one activity in your town that you and your family can do.

My Staycation

Day	Activities
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	

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