

Hanging On

Level 6

I still remember the moment our car pulled out of our driveway for the last time; Mum and Dad in the front seats, Kevin and me in the back.

“Bye Kel! Call me when you get there!” Jill called out.

I stuck my head out of the window and waved to Jill as we drove away.

Leaving Egret Bay was difficult. It had been my home for thirteen years, and Jill and I had been best friends for most of those. We had been through a lot together. Not only had we spent five years of primary school in the same class, but we also both played in the school band, and we were on the same soccer team. Jill even came with us on family camping trips a couple of times.

It took a long time to adjust to the move. There was a lot to get used to; a different school, a different house, and different people. I remember rushing home from school at the end of every day to catch up with Jill. We still managed to talk all the time. Sometimes it was a call, other times it was text messages, or videos games we'd play online together. During the first school holidays after we moved, Jill came and stayed a few days.

After a few months, things started to change. The phone calls became a little shorter, and the text messages became a little less frequent. By the end of the year, then the phone calls stopped completely. I started feeling that I was bothering her. It seemed that unless I sent a message, I wouldn't hear from her.

My birthday came and went without so much as a message from her. Not only that, I saw online that she had been out with some friends to the arcade that same day. It was the same arcade she and I had gone to last year for my birthday. I didn't react very well. In fact, I pretty much told her our friendship was over. She messaged me a couple of times afterwards to apologise, but I was done. I said some hurtful things, and then more or less blocked her.



I was really angry at her for a long time. She messaged me a couple of times, but I basically ignored her. Looking back, it was a tough time for me. I guess it wasn't just my friendship with Jill; there were so many parts of my life that had changed. Speaking to Mum during this time helped me a lot. She shared some of her challenges from the move, and she helped me to understand mine. I learned that it was normal to feel this way, but how important it was to be open to change.

I guess I'd been too focused on myself, and perhaps on Jill. It wasn't fair of me to put that pressure on her. I apologised to Jill and explained to her how I'd been feeling. We had a pretty good conversation, and I was relieved when she told me she understood everything.

It was like I lowered a barrier that I hadn't realised I'd put up. I started giving myself the chance to get to know kids at my new school. And you know what? Most of them were actually pretty cool. Looking back, I can see it wasn't healthy for me to hold on to the past so tightly.

I found it hard to let go of certain parts of my old life, but my new life is here. It doesn't mean we can't be friends anymore, but I learned to accept it wasn't going to be the same, no matter how much I wanted it to be.



Questions

Hanging On – Level 6

1. How long had Kel lived in Egret Bay? _____

2. Why did Kel want to get home quickly after school in the afternoons?

3. Kel was very upset after her birthday. What two things caused that feeling?

4. What does it mean that Kel 'lowered a barrier'? Compare her actions before and after she 'lowered a barrier'.

5. Kel said she put too much pressure on Jill. What does she mean?

6. Which statements are correct? Write 'True' or 'False' next to each.

- No one else in Kel's family found the move difficult. _____

- Kel followed her mum's advice. _____

- The students in Kel's school were unfriendly. _____

- Kel was worried Jill wouldn't forgive her. _____

- Kel and Jill aren't friends anymore. _____

7. Kel changed from the beginning to the end. Explain what she learned.

Answers

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1. How long had Kel lived in Egret Bay? **Kel had lived there for thirteen years.**

2. Why did Kel want to get home quickly after school in the afternoons?

Kel wanted to talk to Jill.

3. Kel was very upset after her birthday. What two things caused that feeling?

Jill forgot to call or message Kel. Jill went to the same arcade they had gone to last year for Kel's birthday.

4. What does it mean that Kel 'lowered a barrier'? Compare her actions before and after she 'lowered a barrier'.

Answers may vary.

It means that she had been stopping others from getting to know her. At the beginning, she raced home and spent all her time talking with Jill. By the end, she was giving herself the chance to get to know people at her new school.

5. Kel said she put too much pressure on Jill. What does she mean?

Answers may vary.

Kel means that she expected Jill to continue their friendship as it had been when they still lived close by and went to the same school.

6. Which statements are correct? Write 'True' or 'False' next to each.

- No one else in Kel's family found the move difficult. **False**
- Kel followed her mum's advice. **True**
- The students in Kel's school were unfriendly. **False**
- Kel was worried Jill wouldn't forgive her. **True**
- Kel and Jill aren't friends anymore. **False**

7. Kel changed from the beginning to the end. Explain what she learned.

Answers may vary but should refer to Kel learning to be more open to new friendships and other changes.