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Episode II: Small Town Charm



Preview

In Episode 10, Kate and Jason had an argument about the importance of school. Jason has a lot on his mind and school is not a priority. Jason's parents are splitting up. In this episode, Jason's dad has left sooner than expected. Kate goes to Jason's hometown and meets his mom, Mrs. Harris. What is there to do in this small town?

Pre-reading Vocabulary List **N**

Word	Definition	Notes / Translation
likewise	When used as a response it means "same to you".	
to split	to leave suddenly	If you are in a rush you can say, "I have to split."
nonsense!	A response that means, "Of course not" or "That's not true".	
it's a wonder	It's surprising	
to keep someone hopping	to keep a person physically busy	
a charmer	a person who has the ability to make people like him or her	
bake off	a contest to see who can bake the best pie, cake, etc; judges decide whose food looks and tastes the best	Also "cook off" for contest with items that are "cooked" rather than baked.
runner up	the person who comes in second in a contest	
to turn down	to say no to an offer	
a sweet tooth	a love of sweets (candy and desserts)	
to hit		he bank on the way home?

What to call your boyfriend or girlfriend's parents.

Addressing the parents of a boyfriend or girlfriend can be awkward at first. The first time you meet your friend's parents, call them Mr. or Mrs. + last name. They may say, "You can call me ... (first name)." If you feel comfortable, go ahead and use their first names when you greet or ask a question to them in future visits. If they introduce themselves using a first name, this is also a form of permission that you may use it. ("Hi, I'm Lisa. Jason's mom.")



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Dialogue

Fill in the blanks with words from the vocabulary list.

Kate: It's nice to meet you Mrs. Harris. Jason has told me so much about you.

Mrs. Harris: Likewise. I'm sorry about the awkward circumstances. We weren't expecting Jason's dad to so quickly.

Kate: Well, I hope you don't mind me being here. I can take the bus back to school if you and Jason would rather have some alone time.

Mrs. Harris: Nonsense! The three of us are going to have a lovely weekend together.



Kate: Jason tells me you are a g	reat cook. He couldn't v	wait to get here for some hom	ne cooking.
Mrs. Harris: That boy does lov restaurant food.	e to eat. It's a	he isn't twice his size a	fter eating all of that greas
Kate: Well, it's a busy restauran	t and the customers lov	e Jason. They keep him	•
Mrs. Harris: He is a work in a restaurant forever.	, isn't he? I wish he	would get busy doing somet	hing else, though. He can't

Kate: Maybe he'll take some courses next year. You never know.

Mrs. Harris: Jason? Don't count on it. That kid never liked school. He's more likely to join the peace corps.

Kate: You might be right. So, what have you got planned for us this weekend? Jason said you wanted to take us to a festival or something?

Mrs. Harris: Yes, our little town has a winter festival every year. **It just so** it's this weekend.

Kate: So what can I expect? Rides, shows, parades?

Mrs. Harris: Actually, I thought I'd take you to the bake . Last year I was the **up** in the best pie category. Kate: I never turn _____ homemade pie. Jason

probably told you I have a _____tooth. Mrs. Harris: Great! We can hit the craft tables on our way

there.

Comprehension Questions

- 1. What does Kate offer to do when she meets Mrs. Harris?
- **2.** Why is the meeting awkward?
- 3. True or False? Mrs. Harris says Jason has gained a lot of weight since being away from home.
- 4. Does Mrs. Harris think Jason will go back to school in September? Why or why not?
- 5. What does Kate think she will see at the winter festival?
- **6.** What is Mrs. Harris very good at doing?
- **7.** What does Mrs. Harris want to do with Kate on the way to the contest?





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Vocabulary Gap §

Fill in the blanks with words from the vocabulary chart on the first page. 1. Having two jobs will really keep you ______. 2. I can't believe you that job offer. 3. I would never say no to cake. I have a ... 4. Can we _____ the library on the way to school? 5. Our new neighbor is a _____. He brought us fresh baked pie and wine. My Life ✓ **Spelling Bee Pair Activity** Discuss these questions with a partner or write your responses in a journal entry. Take turns reading out words and phrases from the vocabulary chart. If your partner spells the word or 1. Are you comfortable talking with your friends' parents? Why or why not? phrase incorrectly, write a sentence together using the vocabulary. If your partner spells the word correctly, 2. Describe someone you know who is a place a checkmark on the chart beside the word. "charmer". 3. Did you like school as a child? Why or why not? 4. What type of festivals does your hometown have? 5. Do you prefer baking or cooking? What is your specialty?



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Vocabulary Review

Antonyms **N**

Match the word on the left to the opposite on the right.

1. runner up

a. to appear

2. to turn down

b. winner

3. keep hopping

c. slow down

4. to split

d. Exactly!

5. Nonsense!

e. to accept

Stay Tuned: Episode #12 In the next episode, Kate goes home for the holidays.



Group Discussion \square

Discuss the Do's and Don'ts when meeting a boyfriend or girlfriend's parents for the first time.

What Not to do	What to do
Don't call them by their first names.	Do introduce yourself.
Don't	Do
Don't	_ Do
Don't	Do
Don't	Do
Don't	Do
Don't	_ Do
Don't	Do
Don't	Do
Don't	Do
Don't	Do