

The Goodbye Party

1 I was sad the day Meredith told Andy and me she was moving. The three of us had been best friends since kindergarten. But Meredith was excited, which wasn't surprising. She was always ready for new adventures, like the time she persuaded us to catch and release minnows in the creek with our hands, or the time we made a homemade kite that actually flew.

2 Meredith promised to send pictures as soon as she arrived at her new home, and we were confident she would. She had a small instant camera, the kind that prints out pictures right away. We used it all the time, making silly faces and then waiting impatiently for the images to develop. I loved arts and crafts, so I had planned to make a book of memories filled with our favorite pictures and give everyone a copy. The only problem was choosing which photos to include—they were all special to us.

3 “Let's plan a surprise goodbye party for Meredith,” Andy suggested to me one day.

4 “Yes! An ice cream party!” I said eagerly. The local ice cream shop was our favorite spot for a special treat.

5 Andy and I spent the next few days planning the party. Ivan, the owner of the ice cream shop, gave us permission to decorate a small table in the corner. “I can even fill up a few balloons for you that day,” Ivan offered after hearing our plans.

6 “That would be great!” Andy exclaimed.

7 The day before Meredith was scheduled to leave, Andy and I arrived at the ice cream shop to start decorating.

8 Andy pointed to a new sign on the wall: WE NOW DELIVER! “I'm going to ask Ivan to bring ice cream to my house all summer long!” Andy declared.

9 “Stop daydreaming,” I said with a laugh. “We need to get to work!”

10 We finished decorating and rushed to meet Meredith. We had told her to meet us at the creek so that she could say goodbye to the minnows. However, the real plan was to go to the creek and then casually suggest getting one last scoop at our favorite ice cream shop, where her surprise party would be waiting. Everything was going according to plan. Well, almost everything.

11 “I can't stay long,” Meredith sighed as she plopped down next to Andy and me at the creek. “I'm supposed to babysit my brother and sister so my parents can finish packing.”

12 “Can we meet up after you're done babysitting?” Andy asked.

13 “I don’t think so,” Meredith said. “We leave early tomorrow, and my parents want us to get a good night’s sleep.” She sighed and gave us each a big hug. “I’ll send you a picture as soon as I can,” she promised, and headed back to her house.

14 Once Meredith was gone, Andy shook his head sadly. “I guess we won’t get to have a party for Meredith after all.”

15 “Hold on,” I said. “I think I have an idea.”

In the last paragraph, the narrator has an idea. In your own words, write a multi-paragraph story that describes the narrator's idea and what happens next.

Use what you have learned from the passage to help you write your story.

Remember to —

- provide a beginning, a middle, and an end to your story
- put events in the order in which they happen
- include descriptions of people, objects, and settings
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar

Use the space provided to write your story.