The Day We Met Again



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Introductory Questions

1. What do you think the title “The Day We Met Again” suggests?
2. Why do married couples sometimes argue about small things?
3. What can parents do to protect children from arguments at home?
4. Have you ever looked at an old photograph and wished you could return to that moment?
5. Do you think people change significantly as they get older?
6. If you could revisit one day in your past, which day would you choose?
7. Can knowing the future help someone make better decisions?
8. Do you believe people deserve a second chance in a relationship?

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The Day We Met Again

John was in his study again.

He called it a study, but it was really just the spare room of the house where he lived with his wife, Sarah, and their two children, Robert and Millie.

The walls were covered in old wallpaper. He had promised to decorate the room years ago, but somehow he had never found the time.

Now it had become his hiding place whenever he and Sarah had another argument.

Tonight had been particularly bad.

He couldn't even remember what had started it. Something about the children, perhaps. Or money. It didn't matter. They seemed to argue about everything these days.

He remembered Millie standing at the bottom of the stairs, watching them. She was only seven. He hated the thought of her listening to her parents shouting at each other.

John sank into the old armchair.

He was tired of it all. The arguments, the shouting, the threats of leaving.

He had even started thinking about turning the spare room into a bedroom. Perhaps it would be easier if they slept separately.

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When they were younger, he and Sarah had been inseparable. They had loved each other so much.

What had happened to them?

He remembered asking Sarah that very question a few weeks earlier.

'What went wrong with us?'

She had looked at him, her eyes filling with tears.

'I don't know, John. I really don't know.'

He looked around the room. There were piles of boxes, old books and a large wooden trunk filled with clothes they no longer wore.

On a small table beside his chair stood a framed photograph.

It showed him and Sarah when they were at university. They were sitting together beneath a tree, smiling at the camera.

He picked it up.

They looked so young. So happy.

He remembered that day. It was the day they first met.

He ran his thumb across the glass, looking at Sarah's face.

For a moment, he wished he could go back.

Back to when everything was simple.

John closed his eyes.

Somewhere in the distance, he heard children laughing.

Then a voice shouted something.

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He opened his eyes.

The room had disappeared.

He was sitting on a wooden bench in a park.

For several seconds, he couldn't move.

What was happening?

He looked around. Children were playing on the grass. A woman was pushing a pram along a path. Somewhere nearby, a dog was barking.

He recognised the place.

It was the park near his old university.

But that was impossible. He hadn't been here for years.

John stood up.

He looked down at himself.

He was wearing an old T-shirt with the name of a rock band printed across the front. He remembered that shirt. He had worn it almost every day when he was a student.

He touched his face.

No beard.

He had worn a beard for more than ten years.

His hair was longer, too. And thicker.

A short distance away stood a public toilet. He remembered there was a mirror inside.

He hurried towards it.

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Above the wash basin was a small, cracked mirror.

John stared at his reflection.

It was him.

But not the man who had been sitting in the spare room a few moments earlier.

This was his younger face. No grey hair. No lines around his eyes.

He looked about twenty-one.

John stepped backwards.

'What the hell is going on?'

He rushed outside.

Everything looked familiar. The duck pond, the benches, the wide stretch of grass where he and his friends used to play frisbee.

He could even smell the freshly cut grass.

This wasn't a dream. It couldn't be.

He could feel the warm sunshine on his face and the hard ground beneath his shoes.

He walked towards a small group of trees at the far end of the park.

He and his friends had always called this place The Wood.

And then he remembered something.

This was where he had first met Sarah.

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He had been playing frisbee with his friends when the disc had flown towards the trees. He had run after it and seen a young woman sitting with her friends.

Sarah.

He had been terribly shy in those days, but something about her had made him stop and speak.

His first words had been ridiculous.

'We're playing frisbee.'

Sarah had laughed.

'I can see that.'

And somehow, from that awkward little conversation, everything had begun.

Their first date. Their first kiss. Their wedding.

Robert and Millie.

Fifteen years together.

John stopped walking.

Fifteen years.

He looked around the park again.

Could it really be possible?

Then he heard someone shouting.

'John!'

He turned.

A group of young men were playing frisbee on the grass.

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He recognised them immediately.

His old university friends.

Men he hadn't seen for years. Men who now had jobs, wives and children of their own.

One of them waved.

'Come on, John!'

The frisbee sailed through the air, passing over his head before landing near the trees.

John watched it fall.

He knew what was about to happen.

He turned towards The Wood.

There were several young women sitting beneath the trees, chatting and laughing.

And there she was.

Sarah.

Young Sarah, with her long hair and that familiar half-smile.

His heart began to beat faster.

He remembered the woman he had left behind. The arguments. The tears. The nights they had spent lying in bed, facing away from each other.

He could simply walk away.

He could leave the frisbee where it was and never speak to her.

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Perhaps he could have a completely different life.

No arguments. No unhappy marriage.

But then he thought of Robert and Millie.

Their faces. Their laughter. The way Millie ran towards him when he came home.

What would happen to them?

And what about Sarah?

He looked at her again.

She was laughing at something one of her friends had said.

He hadn't seen her laugh like that for a long time.

Perhaps things could be different this time.

Perhaps not.

John stood there for a moment, watching her.

Then he picked up the frisbee.

He walked towards the young woman beneath the trees.

She turned and looked up at him.

Those eyes. That half-smile.

'We're playing frisbee,' said John.

'I can see that,' she replied.

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Reading Comprehension Questions

1. Where is John sitting at the beginning of the story?
2. Who lives with John, and what are the children's names?
3. What has John promised to do to the spare room?
4. Why does John use the spare room as a hiding place?
5. What does John remember Millie doing during the argument?
6. What change to his sleeping arrangements has John considered?
7. What question did John ask Sarah a few weeks earlier?
8. What is shown in the framed photograph?
9. What does John wish as he looks at the photograph?
10. Where does John find himself after he opens his eyes?
11. How does John recognise the park?
12. What differences does John notice about his clothes and appearance?
13. How old does John appear to be in the mirror?
14. What does John remember about the place called The Wood?
15. What were John's first words to Sarah when they originally met?
16. How many years have John and Sarah spent together?

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17. Who calls John’s name in the park?

18. Where does the frisbee land?

19. Whom does John see sitting beneath the trees?

20. What memories of his marriage return when he sees young Sarah?

21. What could John do to avoid meeting Sarah?

22. Why does John think about Robert and Millie?

23. What does John notice about Sarah’s laughter?

24. What possibility does John consider before approaching her?

25. What does John finally pick up?

26. What does John say to Sarah at the end?

27. How does Sarah reply?

28. Does the story explain whether John can change his future?

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The Day We Met Again — Story and Reading Comprehension Questions

This is the story divided into clear sections with reading comprehension questions below each section. This format might be easier for certain classes. You can find the model answers at the end of the lesson plan.

Section 1

John was in his study again.

He called it a study, but it was really just the spare room of the house where he lived with his wife, Sarah, and their two children, Robert and Millie.

The walls were covered in old wallpaper. He had promised to decorate the room years ago, but somehow he had never found the time.

Now it had become his hiding place whenever he and Sarah had another argument.

Tonight had been particularly bad.

He couldn't even remember what had started it. Something about the children, perhaps. Or money. It didn't matter. They seemed to argue about everything these days.

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He remembered Millie standing at the bottom of the stairs, watching them. She was only seven. He hated the thought of her listening to her parents shouting at each other.

John sank into the old armchair.

He was tired of it all. The arguments, the shouting, the threats of leaving.

He had even started thinking about turning the spare room into a bedroom. Perhaps it would be easier if they slept separately.

When they were younger, he and Sarah had been inseparable. They had loved each other so much.

What had happened to them?

He remembered asking Sarah that very question a few weeks earlier.

'What went wrong with us?'

She had looked at him, her eyes filling with tears.

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. Where is John sitting at the beginning of the story?
2. Who lives with John, and what are the children’s names?
3. What has John promised to do to the spare room?
4. Why does John use the spare room as a hiding place?
5. What does John remember Millie doing during the argument?

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6. What change to his sleeping arrangements has John considered?

7. What question did John ask Sarah a few weeks earlier?

Section 2

'I don't know, John. I really don't know.'

He looked around the room. There were piles of boxes, old books and a large wooden trunk filled with clothes they no longer wore.

On a small table beside his chair stood a framed photograph.

It showed him and Sarah when they were at university. They were sitting together beneath a tree, smiling at the camera.

He picked it up.

They looked so young. So happy.

He remembered that day. It was the day they first met.

He ran his thumb across the glass, looking at Sarah's face.

For a moment, he wished he could go back.

Back to when everything was simple.

John closed his eyes.

Somewhere in the distance, he heard children laughing.

Then a voice shouted something.

He opened his eyes.

The room had disappeared.

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Reading Comprehension Questions

8. What is shown in the framed photograph?

9. What does John wish as he looks at the photograph?

10. Where does John find himself after he opens his eyes?

Section 3

He was sitting on a wooden bench in a park.

For several seconds, he couldn't move.

What was happening?

He looked around. Children were playing on the grass. A woman was pushing a pram along a path. Somewhere nearby, a dog was barking.

He recognised the place.

It was the park near his old university.

But that was impossible. He hadn't been here for years.

John stood up.

He looked down at himself.

He was wearing an old T-shirt with the name of a rock band printed across the front. He remembered that shirt. He had worn it almost every day when he was a student.

He touched his face.

No beard.

He had worn a beard for more than ten years.

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His hair was longer, too. And thicker.

A short distance away stood a public toilet. He remembered there was a mirror inside.

Reading Comprehension Questions

11. How does John recognise the park?

12. What differences does John notice about his clothes and appearance?

13. How old does John appear to be in the mirror?

Section 4

He hurried towards it.

Above the wash basin was a small, cracked mirror.

John stared at his reflection.

It was him.

But not the man who had been sitting in the spare room a few moments earlier.

This was his younger face. No grey hair. No lines around his eyes.

He looked about twenty-one.

John stepped backwards.

'What the hell is going on?'

He rushed outside.

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Everything looked familiar. The duck pond, the benches, the wide stretch of grass where he and his friends used to play frisbee.

He could even smell the freshly cut grass.

This wasn't a dream. It couldn't be.

He could feel the warm sunshine on his face and the hard ground beneath his shoes.

He walked towards a small group of trees at the far end of the park.

Reading Comprehension Questions

14. What does John remember about the place called The Wood?

15. What were John’s first words to Sarah when they originally met?

16. How many years have John and Sarah spent together?

Section 5

He and his friends had always called this place The Wood.

And then he remembered something.

This was where he had first met Sarah.

He had been playing frisbee with his friends when the disc had flown towards the trees. He had run after it and seen a young woman sitting with her friends.

Sarah.

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He had been terribly shy in those days, but something about her had made him stop and speak.

His first words had been ridiculous.

'We're playing frisbee.'

Sarah had laughed.

'I can see that.'

And somehow, from that awkward little conversation, everything had begun.

Their first date. Their first kiss. Their wedding.

Robert and Millie.

Fifteen years together.

John stopped walking.

Reading Comprehension Questions

17. Who calls John’s name in the park?

18. Where does the frisbee land?

19. Whom does John see sitting beneath the trees?

Section 6

Fifteen years.

He looked around the park again.

Could it really be possible?

Then he heard someone shouting.

'John!'

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He turned.

A group of young men were playing frisbee on the grass.

He recognised them immediately.

His old university friends.

Men he hadn't seen for years. Men who now had jobs, wives and children of their own.

One of them waved.

'Come on, John!'

The frisbee sailed through the air, passing over his head before landing near the trees.

John watched it fall.

He knew what was about to happen.

Reading Comprehension Questions

20. What memories of his marriage return when he sees young Sarah?

21. What could John do to avoid meeting Sarah?

22. Why does John think about Robert and Millie?

23. What does John notice about Sarah’s laughter?

Section 7

He turned towards The Wood.

There were several young women sitting beneath the trees, chatting and laughing.

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And there she was.

Sarah.

Young Sarah, with her long hair and that familiar half-smile.

His heart began to beat faster.

He remembered the woman he had left behind. The arguments. The tears. The nights they had spent lying in bed, facing away from each other.

He could simply walk away.

He could leave the frisbee where it was and never speak to her.

Perhaps he could have a completely different life.

No arguments. No unhappy marriage.

But then he thought of Robert and Millie.

Their faces. Their laughter. The way Millie ran towards him when he came home.

What would happen to them?

And what about Sarah?

Reading Comprehension Questions

24. What possibility does John consider before approaching her?

25. What does John finally pick up?

Section 8

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He looked at her again.

She was laughing at something one of her friends had said.

He hadn't seen her laugh like that for a long time.

Perhaps things could be different this time.

Perhaps not.

John stood there for a moment, watching her.

Then he picked up the frisbee.

He walked towards the young woman beneath the trees.

She turned and looked up at him.

Those eyes. That half-smile.

'We're playing frisbee,' said John.

'I can see that,' she replied.

Reading Comprehension Questions

26. What does John say to Sarah at the end?

27. How does Sarah reply?

28. Does the story explain whether John can change his future?

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Essential Vocabulary

study	spare room	wallpaper
decorate	hiding place	argument
particularly	perhaps	shouting
armchair	threats	separately
inseparable	filling with tears	wooden trunk
framed photograph	beneath	thumb
distance	disappeared	bench
pram	recognised	impossible
printed	reflection	grey hair
stepped backwards	duck pond	stretch of grass
frisbee	freshly cut grass	shy
ridiculous	awkward	familiar
half-smile	heart began to beat faster	facing away
completely different	unhappy	laughter
walk away	replied	

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Vocabulary Practice Exercise

Follow the steps below to help you learn and remember new words and phrases more effectively:

Write each new word or phrase in your vocabulary notebook. Look up its meaning in your dictionary and write a clear, simple definition. Create your own sentence using the word or phrase correctly. Connect it to your own life or experiences.

Examples

Inseparable — *very close and almost always together.*

> Example sentence: The two friends were inseparable at university.

Awkward — *uncomfortable or embarrassing.*

> Example sentence: There was an awkward silence after the argument.

Why do this?

Writing definitions and making your own examples helps you use and remember new language. This supports your reading, writing, speaking and listening.

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Vocabulary Practice Exercise

Match each word (1–15) with its correct definition (a–o).

1. wallpaper
2. armchair
3. inseparable
4. trunk
5. framed
6. pram
7. reflection
8. shy
9. ridiculous
10. awkward
11. familiar
12. separately
13. beneath
14. disappeared
15. replied

Definitions:

a. uncomfortable or embarrassing

b. could no longer be seen

c. a small wheeled carriage for a baby

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d. very silly or unreasonable

e. answered someone

f. known or recognised from before

g. paper used to cover and decorate walls

h. under something

i. almost always together and very close

j. nervous about meeting or speaking to people

k. an image seen in a mirror or shiny surface

l. not together

m. a comfortable chair with supports for the arms

n. surrounded by a border, as with a photograph

o. a large box used for storing things

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True or False

Read the statements below and decide if they are True or False. Correct the false statements. You can find the answers at the end of the lesson plan.

1. John calls the spare room his study.
2. John and Sarah have three children.
3. Millie is seven years old.
4. John has already moved into the spare room to sleep.
5. The photograph shows John and Sarah on their wedding day.
6. John wakes up on a bench near his old university.
7. John sees a beard on his younger face.
8. John and Sarah first met while John was looking for a frisbee.
9. John is certain his marriage will be happy if he meets Sarah again.
10. John chooses to speak to Sarah at the end.

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What is the Correct Synonym?

A synonym is a word of similar meaning. Match each word from the story with a word from the box. Use each answer once.

Word Box: *well-known, identified, rushed, uncomfortable, especially, very close, vanished, silly, answered, entirely*

1. particularly → _____
2. inseparable → _____
3. disappeared → _____
4. recognised → _____
5. hurried → _____
6. ridiculous → _____
7. awkward → _____
8. familiar → _____
9. completely → _____
10. replied → _____

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What is the Correct Antonym?

An antonym is a word of opposite meaning. Match each word from the story with a word from the box. Use each answer once.

Word Box: *happy, same, older, short, confident, distant, thinner, possible, forgot, outside*

1. younger → _____
2. thicker → _____
3. nearby → _____
4. impossible → _____
5. inside → _____
6. shy → _____
7. different → _____
8. unhappy → _____
9. long → _____
10. remembered → _____

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Words and Meanings

Match each expression from the story (1–10) with its correct meaning (a–j).

1. hiding place
2. found the time
3. filling with tears
4. go back
5. for several seconds
6. a short distance away
7. first met
8. heart began to beat faster
9. walk away
10. this time

Meanings:

a. for a short period of time

b. not very far away

c. a place where someone goes to avoid being found or disturbed

d. beginning to cry

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e. started to feel strong emotion or excitement

f. on the present occasion

g. managed to make time for something

h. return to an earlier time

i. leave without becoming involved

j. encountered for the first time

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Gap Fill Exercise

Complete each sentence with the correct word from the box. Use each answer once. Two words will not be used.

Word Box: *frisbee, awkward, armchair, inseparable, beneath, familiar, shy, reflection, trunk, replied, pram, wallpaper*

1. They decided to replace the old _____ in the living room.
2. Grandad sat in his favourite _____ beside the fire.
3. As children, the two sisters were almost _____.
4. She looked at her _____ in the bathroom mirror.
5. The parents pushed their baby in a _____.
6. There was an _____ silence after his strange question.
7. The street looked _____, although she had not visited it for years.
8. He was too _____ to speak to the other students.
9. The cat was sleeping _____ the table.
10. “Of course I remember,” she _____.

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Discussion Questions

1. Why has the spare room become so important to John?
2. Do you think John and Sarah understand why they argue?
3. How might the arguments affect Robert and Millie?
4. What does the old photograph represent to John?
5. Is John remembering his younger relationship realistically?
6. What details make the time-travel experience feel real?
7. Why is the scene with the mirror important?
8. How does John’s knowledge of the future change his experience in the park?
9. Why might John consider walking away from Sarah?
10. Would avoiding a difficult relationship necessarily create a happier life?
11. What responsibilities does John feel towards his children?
12. Could John and Sarah make different choices if they knew what lay ahead?
13. Why is Sarah’s laughter important to John?
14. Is the ending hopeful, sad or uncertain? Explain.
15. Does John choose Sarah, his children or his former life?
16. Do you think people can fall in love with the same person twice?

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17. Can a couple rebuild a relationship after years of arguments?

18. What would you tell John before he approaches Sarah?

19. What do you imagine happens after the final conversation?

20. Would you change an important decision in your past if you could?

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Role Play: What Should We Do Next?

This is a role play activity.

There are two characters in the role play.

1. John
2. Sarah

The Situation

Imagine that John has returned to the present after his experience in the park. He tells Sarah that he has been thinking about their first meeting and how unhappy they have become. Sarah wants to know whether he is ready to make real changes. This conversation is an imagined continuation of the story.

In pairs, create a conversation that you can present to the class. Try to agree on one practical step to improve their relationship and consider the children's feelings. Take some time to prepare your role play. When you are ready, show the class.

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Debate: Can We Change Our Future?

The Motion

"This house believes that knowing the future would help people make better decisions."

Option A — Full Two-Team Debate

Divide the class into two teams.

Team A — For the Motion

Argue that knowing possible consequences helps people avoid mistakes, protect others and make more thoughtful choices.

Team B — Against the Motion

Argue that the future is uncertain, that knowledge can cause fear, and that mistakes are an important part of life.

Preparation (10 minutes)

Each team should prepare its arguments. Think about:

Would knowing the future remove our freedom to choose?

Could John save his marriage if he knew what would happen?

Would changing one decision affect other people?

Is a life without difficult experiences necessarily a better life?

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The Debate

1. Team A gives an opening statement (2 minutes).
2. Team B gives an opening statement (2 minutes).
3. Rebuttal round: each team responds to the other's points (2 minutes each).
4. Closing statements: each team sums up its strongest argument (1 minute each).

The Vote

The rest of the class votes on which side made the more convincing argument. The teacher acts as moderator and timekeeper.

Option B — Simplified Class Discussion

The teacher can present the motion to the whole class and ask students whether they agree or disagree and why. Encourage students to respond to each other's ideas and support their opinions with examples.

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Writing

This is a creative writing exercise.

You are going to continue writing the next part of the story.

- What does Sarah say after her first reply?
- Does John tell her anything about the future?
- Does he make a different decision from the first time?
- What happens to Robert and Millie if the future changes?
- Will you explain the time travel or leave it mysterious?

Think about these questions to help you write the next part of the story. Now write the story. When you have finished, read it aloud to your classmates. Or give it to your teacher for review.

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Reading Comprehension Questions — Answers

1. In his study, which is actually the spare room.
2. His wife Sarah and their two children, Robert and Millie.
3. To decorate it.
4. He goes there when he and Sarah argue.
5. She was standing at the bottom of the stairs watching her parents.
6. Turning the spare room into a bedroom so they can sleep separately.
7. “What went wrong with us?”
8. John and Sarah at university, sitting beneath a tree and smiling.
9. That he could go back to when everything was simple.
10. On a wooden bench in a park near his old university.
11. He recognises the park near his old university.
12. He is wearing his old rock-band T-shirt, has no beard and has longer, thicker hair.
13. About twenty-one.
14. It is the place where he first met Sarah.
15. “We’re playing frisbee.”

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16. Fifteen years.

17. His old university friends.

18. Near the trees.

19. Young Sarah, sitting with her friends.

20. Their arguments, tears and nights spent facing away from each other in bed.

21. Walk away and never speak to her.

22. He wonders what would happen to their children if he chose a different life.

23. She is laughing in a way he has not seen for a long time.

24. That things might be different this time, although he is uncertain.

25. The frisbee.

26. “We’re playing frisbee,” said John.

27. “I can see that,” she replies.

28. No. The ending leaves this uncertain.

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True or False — Answers

1. True.
2. False. They have two children.
3. True.
4. False. He has only considered doing so.
5. False. It shows them at university.
6. True.
7. False. He has no beard.
8. True.
9. False. He is unsure whether things will be different.
10. True.

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What is the Correct Synonym? — Answers

1. particularly = especially
2. inseparable = very close
3. disappeared = vanished
4. recognised = identified
5. hurried = rushed
6. ridiculous = silly
7. awkward = uncomfortable
8. familiar = well-known
9. completely = entirely
10. replied = answered

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What is the Correct Antonym? — Answers

1. younger ↔ older
2. thicker ↔ thinner
3. nearby ↔ distant
4. impossible ↔ possible
5. inside ↔ outside
6. shy ↔ confident
7. different ↔ same
8. unhappy ↔ happy
9. long ↔ short
10. remembered ↔ forgot

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Words and Meanings — Answers

1. hiding place = c. a place where someone goes to avoid being found or disturbed
2. found the time = g. managed to make time for something
3. filling with tears = d. beginning to cry
4. go back = h. return to an earlier time
5. for several seconds = a. for a short period of time
6. a short distance away = b. not very far away
7. first met = j. encountered for the first time
8. heart began to beat faster = e. started to feel strong emotion or excitement
9. walk away = i. leave without becoming involved
10. this time = f. on the present occasion

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Gap Fill Exercise — Answers

1. wallpaper
2. armchair
3. inseparable
4. reflection
5. pram
6. awkward
7. familiar
8. shy
9. beneath
10. replied

Unused words: trunk, frisbee.

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Vocabulary Practice Exercise — Answers

1. g — wallpaper: paper used to cover and decorate walls
2. m — armchair: a comfortable chair with supports for the arms
3. i — inseparable: almost always together and very close
4. o — trunk: a large box used for storing things
5. n — framed: surrounded by a border, as with a photograph
6. c — pram: a small wheeled carriage for a baby
7. k — reflection: an image seen in a mirror or shiny surface
8. j — shy: nervous about meeting or speaking to people
9. d — ridiculous: very silly or unreasonable
10. a — awkward: uncomfortable or embarrassing
11. f — familiar: known or recognised from before
12. l — separately: not together
13. h — beneath: under something
14. b — disappeared: could no longer be seen
15. e — replied: answered someone

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