

**Today, you will read a story titled “The Leaving Morning.” As you read, think about the actions of the characters and the events of the stories. Answer the questions to help you write an essay.**

Read the story titled “The Leaving Morning” by Angela Johnson. Then answer questions 4 through 6.

## The Leaving Morning

by Angela Johnson

- ① THE LEAVING happened on a soupy, misty morning,  
when you could hear the street sweeper.  
Sssshhshsh...
  - ② We pressed our faces against the hall window  
And left cold lips on the pane.  
  
It was the leaving morning.  
Boxes of clothes,  
toys,  
dishes,  
and pictures of us everywhere.
  - ③
  - ④ The leaving had been long because we'd packed  
days before and said good-bye  
to everyone we knew...
  - ⑤ Our friends...
  - ⑥ The grocer..
  - ⑦ Everybody in our building...
  - ⑧ And the cousins, especially the cousins.
  - ⑨ We said good-bye to the cousins all day long.
- 
- ⑩ Mama said the people in a truck would move us  
and take care of everything we loved,  
on the leaving morning.
  - ⑪ We woke up early and had hot cocoa from the deli  
across the street.  
I made more lips on the deli window  
and watched for the movers on the leaving morning.

We sat on the steps and  
watched the movers.

(12)

They had blue moving clothes on  
and made bumping noises on the stairs.  
There were lots of whistles  
and "Watch out, kids."

(13)

Got me a moving hat and a kiss on the head  
from Miss Mattie, upstairs.

(14)

And on the leaving morning she told me  
to watch myself in the new place when I crossed  
the street, and think of her.

(15)

I sat between my mama and daddy,  
holding their hands.  
My daddy said in a little while we'd be someplace  
we'd love.

(16)

So I left lips on the front window of our apartment,  
and said good-bye to our old place,  
on the leaving morning.

---

## 1. Part A

What is the central message of the story?

- a. It's hard to say goodbye to a place you love.
- b. The love in the neighborhood and the family makes moving easier.
- c. The narrator owned a lot of stuff that had to be moved.
- d. Drinking hot cocoa can make you feel better on a sad day.

## Part B

Which statement **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- a. "...Boxes of clothes, toys, dishes, and pictures of us everywhere."
- b. "We woke up early and had hot cocoa from the deli."
- c. "I sat between my mama and daddy, holding their hands. My daddy said in a little while we'd be someplace we'd love."
- d. "...we'd packed days before and said good-bye to everyone we knew...our friends...the grocer...everybody in our building...and the cousins, especially the cousins."

## 2. Part A

At three points in the story, the narrator says she **left lips**. Why did she do that?

- a. She was artistic.
- b. She was kissing the special places goodbye.
- c. It was cold.
- d. Miss Mattie kissed her.

## Part B

Which statement **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- a. "...on a soupy, misty morning..."
- b. "Got me a moving hat and a kiss on the head from Miss Mattie..."
- c. "...I left lips on the front window of our apartment and said good-bye to our old place..."
- d. "...I made more lips on the deli window and watched for the movers on the leaving morning."

### 3. Part A

The leaving morning was actually just the last part of moving away. How did that affect the act of moving?

- a. It made it easier, because they could say good-bye to everyone.
- b. It made it better, because they had time to move their belongings.
- c. It made it easier, because they had time to drink cocoa and leave lips.
- d. It made it better, because Miss Mattie gave the narrator a hat.

## Part B

Which statement **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- a. "...on the leaving morning she told me to watch myself in the new place when I crossed the street..."
- b. "...the people in a truck would move us and take care of everything we loved."
- c. "The leaving had been long, because we'd packed days before and said good-bye to everyone we knew..."
- d. "We woke up early and had hot cocoa from the deli across the street."



A blank sheet of lined paper with 20 horizontal lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. The paper is enclosed in a rectangular border.