

Leaving Texas

It was 1936. Jack, a twelve-year-old boy living in Texas was playing with his two best friends Michael and Victor. Michael and Victor were Jack's best friends because they were always there for him. Jack never thought that he would need new friends because he thought that Michael and Victor were his permanent ones. Michael and Victor were playing blind man's bluff on Jack's fairly empty farm. Michael and Victor had asked Jack what was wrong with the farm, and Jack also wanted to know that too so he just responded with "I don't know either ". They were playing when Jack's parents called him into the house. He walked up the steps and into the house. When he entered the dining room, where his parents were sitting, he already knew something was wrong, his parents' faces were very solemn. "What's wrong? he asked. Jack's parents, Michelle and Robin, told Jack that their crops were not growing anymore. Jack was confused, so his parents explained to him what was happening. They explained to him that they would have to move to California. During the 1930's, severe dust storms forced residents to flee farmlands in a period called the Dust Bowl. Jack was stunned! His parents told him that they were leaving in a week and to start packing soon. He left the dining room table in tears. He wiped off his tears and went back out to play. They asked him what was wrong because they knew something was bothering him. Jack told them about how they would have to move to California. Michael and Victor were so upset. Michael said, "Well let's make the most of the week we have left, let's keep on playing!" Victor and Jack agreed and they went on playing.

Dinner at the dining table was very solemn and now that Jack knew that they were leaving, nothing could make him feel better. Jack ate his dinner and went to his room. He looked in his book of photos of all the things he did while he was living there. He was born in this house. He had so many memories. The first page in his photo book was of his parents holding him in front of the new house they bought when he was born. They were happy for him to grow up in one of the best houses and farms in the county. He went through his photo book and saw

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pictures posing with his friends, meeting new people, going to school, and other amazing adventures. He would miss those times dearly. He closed the photo book and put it back in his drawer. Then he went to sleep. The last few days living in Texas were great. Jack's parents took him to an ice cream shop where he got his favorite flavor, vanilla ice cream. He got 3 scoops. It was delicious. He especially liked the sugar cone. He wondered if they had any of this ice cream in California. If they didn't, it would be even worse living there. His friends gave him each one special thing of theirs that would remind him of them when he went to California.

On the day he was going to leave, he packed his suitcase and also helped his parents put up boxes of clothes, furniture, and other items into the truck. When he got in the car he realized he left one special photo that was not in the photo book. He asked his parents if he could go get it, but his parents told him that they needed to go now if they wanted to get to the next town before it got dark. Jack begged his parents to please just give him twenty minutes and he would come back if he had not found it. His parents agreed and Jack ran into the house to find that special photo. Since his friends were still there waving goodbye to him, he jumped out and told them, "I can't find my special photo". They said, "we will help you look." They ran into the house and looked in every crack and nook, upstairs and downstairs, in the attic and in the basement, but couldn't find it. Finally, Jack got really sad because that was a really old picture and could not be replaced; he was the only one who had this special photo in his group of friends. They decided to take one more look around the house just to be sure. When they entered Jack's room, Victor opened up the window to let some air into the room because of the heat. He turned around and went back to looking. Their twenty minutes were up so Michael went over to close the window. He saw the picture lodged in the window seal and got it and showed it to them. Jack was so happy! He thanked them so much for helping him find it. It was the picture of when they first met at the ice cream shop. They were all there eating their favorite flavors and laughing together. Jack gave them one last hug and gave them something to remember him by, which was a small "Sonny sugar cone 5 cents" poster that he had saved from

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the ice cream shop that day. Michael and Victor couldn't believe he had saved that poster for so long and by folding it up and taping it to the back of the photo. He had saved it because it was a memorable experience for them all; that's when they had all become best friends. He gave it to them and they said that they would cherish it forever. He then heard his parents calling his name. It was time to go. He gave them one last hug and ran downstairs and got in the car. He waved goodbye to his friends as his friends waved back.

Jack, his parents, and his siblings, his sister and brother, were all in the car alongside the parents truck, driving to California. He and his siblings fought the entire way to the next town. When they got there they stopped to rest then got up the next morning and drove to California. When Jack and his family finally got to their new home, he put the photo book in the same drawer where he had kept it in Texas and got his room fixed up to make it to his style. The next day he went to a new school, where he was greeted by two other kids named Oliver and Kyle. They gave him a tour of the school after they found out that they were in the same class. They asked him what brought him to the school, and he told them about the problem with the farm in Texas. They told him they were so sorry this happened to him but that he would really enjoy living in California. They soon became best friends. He would still look at his photo book often. He asked his parents if he could use the telephone, and they agreed. He called his friends and they caught him up with everything that was happening back in Texas. He told them that he was enjoying life there but he still wished that they were with him in California. They talked on the phone for hours until it was time for Jack's bedtime. Jack went to bed feeling happy. This went on for years.

Years later, during another phone call, he would tell them of his plan to return to Texas to attend college. Michael and Victor were so excited because it turned out they were all going to go to the same college. They couldn't believe it. Before he left for college he remembered his photo book that he still kept with him. He looked through it and looked at all the fun things he had done in Texas. Then he realized there were even more fun things he had done in California.

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He remembered how he had been so sad to leave Texas when he was twelve years old. Now, ten years later, he realized that he got much more out of California than he had ever imagined. He knew why his twelve year old self wanted to stay in Texas, but he had found everything he needed in California... but he didn't know that until now. As he looked at the photo once more, he knew there were more adventures to come. Oliver and Kyle played a huge role in those adventures along with Michael and Victor. Jack was grateful he now had friends in both Texas and California. His life was full and he was so grateful for all that had happened and for the incredible friendships he had developed over the years.