

Who are these people?

Can you guess how the man feels?

The title of this story is “A Little Traveler.” What do you think this story is about?

Can you guess what happens?



A Little Traveler

Vicente Cabrera is a Mexican farmer. He works in the fields every day. His son, Tomas, is three years old. Tomas often goes to the fields with his father. Mr. Cabrera works, and Tomas plays.

One day Mr. Cabrera went to a field with Tomas. Tomas sat on a rock while Mr. Cabrera worked. Mr. Cabrera looked up from his work. Tomas wasn't on the rock. Mr. Cabrera looked in the field for Tomas. Tomas wasn't there. Mr. Cabrera ran to his house and looked for Tomas. Tomas wasn't there. Mr. Cabrera looked everywhere for Tomas. He couldn't find him.

The Cabrera farm is close to the border between Mexico and the United States. There is a fence at the border, but there are holes in the fence. "Maybe Tomas crawled through a hole in the fence," Mr. Cabrera thought. "Maybe Tomas is in the United States."

The Mexican police telephoned the U.S. Border Patrol. "We need your help," they said. The Mexican police told the U.S. Border Patrol officers about Tomas.

The U.S. Border Patrol officers began to look for Tomas in the United States. They were worried. The land near the border is desert. It is hot in the daytime and cold at night. A small boy can't live long in the desert.

Tomas disappeared on Friday afternoon. On Saturday night a U.S. Border Patrol officer saw small footprints in the sand. He followed the footprints to a bush. Under the bush he found Tomas. Tomas was cold, hungry, and thirsty. He had cuts on his feet and face. But he was alive. He was 15 miles¹ from his home.

¹ 24 kilometers

VOCABULARY

Complete the sentences. Find the right words. Circle the letter of your answer.

1. The Cabrera farm is close to the border between Mexico and the United States. A ____ is at the border. It separates the United States from Mexico.

- a. restaurant
- b. museum
- c. fence

2. But there are ____ in the fence, and a small boy can crawl through them.

- a. fields
- b. rocks
- c. holes

3. Tomas ____ on Friday afternoon. A U.S. Border Patrol officer found Tomas on Saturday night.

- a. disappeared
- b. worked
- c. changed

4. Tomas walked in the desert for 15 miles. A U.S. Border Patrol officer found his small ____ in the sand.

- a. toys
- b. footprints
- c. shoes

FINDING INFORMATION

Read the questions. Find the answers in the story. Write the answers.

1. Is Vicente Cabrera a teacher or a farmer?

Vicente Cabrera is a farmer.

2. Is his farm in the United States or in Mexico?

3. Is his farm close to the border or far from the border?

4. Did Tomas go to the United States or to Mexico?

5. Did a U.S. Border Patrol officer find Tomas under a bush or under the sand?

6. Was Tomas dead or alive?

7. Was Tomas 2 miles or 15 miles from his home?

UNDERSTANDING PRONOUNS

Look at the pronouns. What do they mean? Write the letter of your answer on the line.

1. c Tomas was sitting on *it*.
 2. Tomas crawled through *it*.
 3. The Mexican police telephoned *them*.
 4. *It* is hot in the daytime and cold at night.
 5. A U.S. Border Patrol officer saw *them* in the sand.
 6. The officer found Tomas under *it*.
- a. footprints
 - b. the desert
 - c. a rock
 - d. a bush
 - e. the U.S. Border Patrol
 - f. a hole in the fence

UNDERSTANDING A SUMMARY

Imagine this: You want to tell the story "A Little Traveler" to a friend. You want to tell the story quickly, in three sentences. Which three sentences tell the story best? Check (✓) your answer.

1. Tomas, a three-year-old Mexican boy, lives close to the border between Mexico and the United States. One day he walked to the border and crawled through a hole in the fence. U.S. Border Patrol officers found him in the United States, 15 miles from his home.
2. One day, Vicente Cabrera, a Mexican farmer, was working in the fields while his son, Tomas, played on a rock. When Mr. Cabrera looked up from his work, Tomas was gone. Mr. Cabrera looked everywhere for Tomas, but he couldn't find him.

DISCUSSION

The United States and Mexico are neighbors. What about your native country?

- Does it have neighbors?
- Is there a fence at the border?
- Is it easy to cross the border?

On your own paper, draw a map of your native country. What are your country's neighbors? Write the names near the borders. Then show your map to a partner. Tell your partner about your native country's neighbors and borders.

WRITING

Were you lost when you were a child? Was someone you know lost?

First, read about Tomas. Then, on your own paper, write about yourself. (Or write about someone you know.)

1. Tomas was three years old when he was lost. How old were you?
2. Tomas was with his father. Who were you with?
3. Tomas was in a field. Where were you?
4. Tomas walked to the United States. Where did you go?
5. The U.S. Border Patrol found Tomas. Who found you?
6. Tomas was lost for two days. How long were you lost?