

Amanda's Trip

by Guy Belleranti

"Guess what, Katie," Amanda said.

We were standing in her back yard playing with Tess, her Golden Retriever.

"What?" I asked, patting Tess on the head. Then I tossed a ball for her to play with.



"I took a great trip."

"That's good," I said. "I hope you had fun." "That's okay. I kind of liked it," she said, pulling a small object from her sleeve.

"Don't you want to go?"

"I guess. It has to be somewhere."

"Oh, where'd you go?"

"Nowhere," I said. "I just stayed home and played computer games."

"That doesn't sound like a very interesting trip."

"Far away places," she said. "I went to go new places, faraway places." She bent over to pick up the ball Tess had dropped at her feet.

"Like where you went?" I asked.

"Yes." Amanda threw the ball across the yard, and we both watched Tess chase it.

"Where was it?" I asked.

"Far away."

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to talk a lot, but few surprises up

my brother and played

l to go new places,

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"How far?"

"Real far. To another country. I got to wear a beautiful, fancy dress there. All the girls and women do."

"You went to and from a far away country in just a weekend?" I gave Amanda a disbelieving look.

"That's right. And it was fun."

This time Tess brought the ball to me. I picked it up, then dropped it quickly. "Yuck. You sure got it wet, Tess."

"She always does that. It's just good, old dog spit."

"Yeah," I said. "Cool."

"There wasn't a dog."

"Koom-where?"

"Koombria. K-C."

"Never heard of it."

"It's a wonderful place. I visited." green trees as tall as skyscrapers, and the sky was blue.

"No way," I said. I sighed as Tess pawed at me. Making a face, I picked up the ball with my fingertips and threw it. Tess took off after it.

"It's the truth," Amanda insisted. "And you should taste their food. The vegetables taste like pizza and peppermint! And they're still good for you."

I rolled my eyes. In addition to talking, Amanda also loves to eat. But this trip of hers....

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"Amanda," I said "you're making this all up, aren't you."

Amanda shook her head, her blonde ponytail wagging. "Of course I'm not."

"Well, I think you are. There's no way you could afford to go to a country like that for just a weekend."

"You'd be surprised. It didn't cost me a cent."

"It didn't cost you a cent because you didn't really go," I said. "You couldn't have. There isn't any country named Koombria, and there's no place it only rains at night."

"There is so. I'll go to the house and down the hall to her room. Tess said she had a key to the front door."

"How can you see something from your window?" she asked. "I have better than you. I can see the house and down the hall to her room. Tess said she had a key to the front door."

"I have better than you. I can see the house and down the hall to her room. Tess said she had a key to the front door."

"What's this?"

"Your free ticket."

"This? This is just a piece of paper." I handed it to her. "It's a free ticket to my hands. I can see the house and down the hall to her room. Tess said she had a key to the front door."

"Of course not," she said. "It's a free ticket to my hands. I can see the house and down the hall to her room. Tess said she had a key to the front door." "There's almost two weeks before it's due. I can see the house and down the hall to her room. Tess said she had a key to the front door." "long."

Amanda was right. I started reading right after dinner and kept right on reading, traveling to a far away world on a trip just as great as Amanda had promised.

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Name : _____

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- 1) Katie enjoys listening to Amanda's stories because...
- a) Amanda has a flair for story telling.
 - b) Amanda makes up real good stories.
 - c) Amanda always comes up with something surprising.
 - d) Amanda uses great intonation at stories.

2) Why did Katie in

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3) Pick any five cor

full forms.

4) How does Amar

5) Does Koombria actually exist?
