

Finding the Fossil at Last

Colin flinched as the backhoe raised its claw-like arm over the sandbox. Colin had not used the sandbox in years, but he had so many memories of digging and looking for dinosaur fossils. He never found any, and once he was old enough to know that it was impossible to find dinosaur fossils in his homemade sandbox, he had given up playing in it altogether. "Thinking about the past?" his father asked, putting his hand on Colin's shoulder. Colin shrugged. "I do not use the sandbox anymore, so it is not really a big deal." The backhoe scooped the sand and dirt beneath it, piling it aside. The lawn was a soggy mess. "That leak in the water pipe must be pretty bad," Colin's father said. Colin barely heard him. He was staring at the spot that used to be his favourite play area.

The backhoe stopped and Joe, the man operating it, stepped out. "I have found the leak." Colin and his father walked over to the big hole in the yard. Colin peered inside. He could see the pipe and the spot where the water was leaking out, but his eyes wandered to something sticking out of the dirt and mud. "What is that?" Colin asked. His father leaned over the hole. "It looks like a fossil." "A real fossil?" Colin's eyes widened. He glanced at the hole that was once his sandbox, and for the first time in years, he thought he would get his wish of finding a dinosaur bone. "Is it okay if we pull out that fossil?" Colin's father asked Joe. "Yeah, I will get it for you." Joe reached into the hole. Colin imagined all kinds of dinosaur bones, but when Joe handed him the fossil Colin sighed with disappointment. "It looks like a piece of rock with seashell imprints on it." "Fossils can be made by a lot of different things, not just dinosaurs," his father said. "I would say you are a lucky kid to have found a fossil at all," Joe said. Colin turned the fossil over in his hands. It was pretty cool. "Can I keep it in my room?" "Absolutely," his father said. "You found it, so it is yours." Colin carried the fossil into his house. Every time he looked at it, he would remember the fun he used to have in his sandbox.

Reading Test:

Fluency: ___/5 Pronunciation: ___/5 Understanding: ___/5 Meaning: ___/5

Comments: _____

Q. Write and learn the spellings of the underlined words in the text.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

Q. Write the rhyming words of the following words.

a. gold _____

b. kite _____

c. dry _____

d. hill _____

Q. Fill in the blanks taking help from the text.

a. He had so many _____ of digging and looking for dinosaur _____.

b. Colin _____ heard him. He was staring at the spot that used to be his _____ play area.

c. He could see the pipe and the spot where the water was _____ out, but his eyes _____ to something sticking out of the dirt and mud.

d. Colin _____ with disappointment. "It looks like a piece of rock with seashell _____ on it".

Q. Answer the following questions to the text 'Finding the Fossil at Last' in full sentences.

a. What was special about Colin's sandbox?

b. What did Colin enjoy looking for?

c. Why did Colin give up playing with his sandbox as he grew up?

d. What was Colin busy looking at when the leak was identified?

e. 'Colin's eyes widened', what does this phrase tell us about how Colin felt?

f. Was Colin confident he had found the fossil of a dinosaur?

g. Why was Colin disappointed?

h. What did Colin's father say to comfort him?

i. How did Colin feel about the fossil in the end? Did he appreciate it or not?
