

All Alone



The man without a country is put out to sea. He tries to remember what it was like back home.

- Preview:**
1. Read the name of the story.
 2. Look at the picture.
 3. Read the sentences under the picture.
 4. Read the first paragraph of the story.
 5. Then answer the following question.

You learned from your preview that if you had no home,

- a. you would be happy.
- b. you would laugh a lot.
- c. you would have a lot to talk about.
- d. you would have little to talk about.

Turn to the Comprehension Check on page 10 for the right answer.

Now read the story.

Read to find out what it must be like to have no country.

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What if you had no home. What if there was no place to call home. And there was no one you could talk to about home. You couldn't say, "Where I come from it snows in the winter." Or, "I'm going home now." You just couldn't say these things. No one would listen to you. And everyone you met would know that you no longer had a home.

Oh, I don't mean just the street you live on, or the state you live in, like New York. I mean your country. I mean the United States of America. What if the United States was taken away from you. What if you had no country.

What if the President said you must leave the United States. He has you taken and put on a ship. The ship's captain is told never to bring you back to America. When the captain has to return with his ship, he puts you on another ship that goes out again. And it's always like that. You go from one ship to another. You never come home again. You have no home.

You are always with people you don't know. They are told not to talk about home around you.

You remember things about home. But no one will let you talk about them. If you try, they will walk away. You remember swimming in the summer. You remember taking walks in the winter woods. And riding horses and having picnics on a hot summer day. You remember parades and watching the flag as it went by. You remember reading about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. But no one will talk to you about these things. It's like a bad dream.

Can you picture it? You are on a ship that goes out to sea. You don't belong anywhere. No one really has anything to do with you. No one really cares about you. You are not wanted in any other country. Not in Canada, Mexico, England, France, or Italy. Not anywhere! When you are not looking, people look at you and shake their heads. They never thought they would

see someone without a country.

What must they think? What very, very bad thing could you have done? Why would your country be taken away from you? Everyone who looks at you wonders. How does it make you feel not to belong? Do you feel bad? Do you feel alone? Do you find that it's hard to talk? Do you hide from people?

Everyone you see wonders what you did. By and by, the word gets out. But you move from ship to ship and people stop thinking about you. But some, like me, do remember. We remember your country was taken away from you because you didn't love it. A long time ago, that happened to a man I knew.

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COMPREHENSION CHECK

Choose the best answer.

1. If you had no home,
 - a. you would have many friends.
 - b. you would not have many friends.
 - c. everyone would want you for a friend.
 - d. your friends would have a party for you.
2. If you had no country,
 - a. you would be well known.
 - b. most people would not know you.
 - c. everyone would like you.
 - d. people would be afraid of you.
3. If you had to spend all your life on a ship,
 - a. you would forget about home.
 - b. you would miss the sea.
 - c. you would miss your family and friends.
 - d. you would miss your birthday.
4. If no one could talk to you about home,
 - a. you would be sad.
 - b. you would be glad.
 - c. you would be pleased.
 - d. you would feel good.
5. To be thrown out of a country, a person would have to have done something
 - a. very bad.
 - b. very good.
 - c. very funny.
 - d. very silly.
6. A person who is thrown out of a country
 - a. is wanted in Italy.
 - b. is wanted in Mexico.
 - c. is wanted in England.
 - d. is not wanted anywhere.
7. In this story, a man had his country taken away from him because
 - a. he didn't love it.
 - b. he didn't remember it.
 - c. he couldn't find it.
 - d. he couldn't smell it.
8. The man in this story
 - a. did not want to live anywhere.
 - b. did not belong anywhere.
 - c. did not like his family.
 - d. did not like parades.
9. Another name for this story could be
 - a. "All Alone in the World."
 - b. "Living in America."
 - c. "A Man with Many Friends."
 - d. "Riding Horses."
10. This story is mainly about
 - a. living in the country.
 - b. swimming in the summer.
 - c. what it must be like to have no country.
 - d. living your life on a ship.

Preview Answer:

d. you would have little to talk about.

Check your answers with the key on page 67.