

No More Fear



Callie wasn't afraid of flying across the country in an airplane. She really wasn't, except maybe that she was a little afraid. The turbulence in the airplane made her stomach clench, and the changing air pressure made her ears hurt.

Today she would be flying across the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. She stood in the busy airport, waiting her turn at the ticket counter. Grandma Patterson stood beside her.

Grandma wasn't scared—she wasn't scared of anything.

That helped Callie feel a little better.

They received their boarding passes, checked in their luggage, and then headed to the security check.

Finally, they arrived at their gate. A large plane sat at the end of the jet bridge, and Callie moved to the window to get a closer look. The engines and wings were huge! A long line of tiny windows dotted the length of the plane.

Callie took a deep breath. Grandma had promised Callie she could sit by the window. She said it would help Callie feel less afraid.

A lady at the front desk announced they were ready to begin boarding. Callie

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walked bravely toward the jet bridge. She boarded the plane. She and Grandma found seats near the wings, and Callie had a window seat as Grandma had promised.

She sat and buckled her seat belt. Slowly, more people filled the airplane.

At the appointed time, they backed away from the jet bridge. They approached the runway. Then the engines roared to life. They sped forward until the plane lifted off the ground.

Callie's stomach flipped, and she took another deep breath to calm her nerves.

"Look at all the cars and houses below us!" Grandma said excitedly. She looked past Callie to see out of the window.

Callie looked nervous, but the sight below them was truly amazing. The ground looked like a map, with lines and colors of varying shapes and sizes. Her fears vanished.

"We'll be there in no time," Grandma promised. "You'll see."

Callie kept her gaze on the ground. She watched cities pass below them.

After a short time, a flight attendant stopped at their seats.

"Would you like any snacks?" the attendant asked.

Callie chose a cup of juice and a bag of pretzels.

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As the attendant handed them to Callie, the plane began to shake. Callie's stomach clenched with nerves. She quickly looked to the attendant, but the attendant continued her work without stopping. She smiled at Callie.

Callie's nerves slowly faded. The attendant wasn't nervous. Maybe Callie didn't need to be nervous either.

Soon, the plane began to lower so they could land. They had reached their destination.

"What did you think?" asked Grandma as they collected their luggage.

Callie thought for a moment, and then she smiled. "Flying wasn't as scary as I remember."

Grandma hugged Callie with a smile. "I thought you might say that."

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1) What was the main thing on Callie's mind right before flying?

2) What is the narrative point of view used in the text?

- a) first person
- b) second person
- c) third person

3) Which detail is not included in the text?

- a) Callie had a cup of juice and some pretzels on the airplane.
- b) Callie had flown many times before.
- c) When the airplane began to shake, Callie started becoming very nervous.

4) Then the engines roared to life. What does "roared to life" mean?

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- 5) Read the sentence that includes the word "*turbulence*". Choose which of its meanings best suits the context.
- The *turbulence* made Callie's stomach clench, and the changing air pressure made her ears hurt.
- a) a state of utter confusion or agitation in a country
 - b) sudden irregular movement within air or water
 - c) a state characterized by sudden, disorganized change