

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Coming Home

---

The lobby of the waiting area was fairly full. I was at the airport early for my flight to leave, but I enjoyed watching the planes take off. So I just stood at the window for a while and enjoyed the view.

Finally, I took a seat next to the wall. Behind me sat two beautiful little girls. Well, they actually didn't sit very much. They were keeping their mother very busy while she tried to keep them close to her and under some kind of control.



"Mommy, why did I have to wear my very best dress today?" asked one of the little girls as she tugged at the lace around the collar.

"Well, honey, you want to look your best when Daddy gets here, don't you?" her mother replied.

"I guess, but why does Daddy have to be gone so much? I miss him," she said.

Then the other little girl climbed up onto a chair next to her mother and said, "Yes, why is Daddy gone? I don't think he will remember me."

I knew this story all too well. This must be another busy businessman trying to make a buck. Maybe he was spending a little too much time on the job and not as much time with his family as he should.

The mother brushed the blond curls from her daughter's face and said, "Honey, your father misses you very much, too, and he loves you. He wants more than anything to be with you all the time, but he has a very important job, and he must do it."

Just then the speaker over my head announced the arrival of flight 547. I looked at my watch. It was still a good forty-five minutes until my plane was to board.

Then I noticed that most of the people in the lobby area started to get excited. It seemed that the flight that was coming in had gotten their attention.

I began to wonder what was so exciting about this flight. There must be a big celebrity coming into town. Funny thing was, though, I didn't remember hearing of anyone important coming to town. Maybe it was a politician. I hadn't heard about that, either.

I looked all around to see who it could be. I didn't see anyone, but the people in the lobby were getting more and

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

more excited. The tension was thick. This must really be someone important.

I looked through the glass doors and over the heads of the waiting crowd. I didn't see anyone. Then all of a sudden one person came off the ramp area and turned toward the lobby. I couldn't see who it was because he hadn't come through security yet, but I wished that I had my camera ready or maybe something to get an autograph with. I didn't even have a pen.

The person got closer. I could make out that it was a man by the strong, masculine stride. His shoulders were back, and his back was straight. Then I noticed he was wearing a military uniform. He was a sergeant, I think. He was the only person coming this way.

I thought to myself how disappointed the crowd would be when they realized a celebrity was not on this flight. They got all excited for nothing.

Then the doors opened, and the soldier walked through. The crowd erupted in applause. The noise was almost deafening. I was shocked. I was confused.

Everyone wanted to shake the soldier's hand. Many of the men in the crowd were ex-military men in uniforms. Most of the people in the crowd patted the man on his back and said "welcome home."

Then a very big smile swept across the soldier's face. The crowd parted a little, and the woman with the two little girls ran up to the man. He put his arms around her and kissed her. Then he bent down and picked up the two girls. He had one in each arm.

Everyone had tears in their eyes, including me. Then amidst all of the noise of the crowd, I heard the little girls say, "Welcome home, Daddy! Welcome home!"

Coming Home

## Questions

---

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. What was the main reason for the person telling this story to be at the airport?
- A. He wanted to watch the planes.
  - B. He had a flight to catch.
  - C. He liked to watch people.
  - D. He had nothing else to do.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The waiting area of the airport was almost empty.
- A. False
  - B. True

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The person telling the story finally sat down after he had done what?
- A. eaten a large hot dog
  - B. watched the planes take off
  - C. read the newspaper
  - D. talked to several people

4. The mother of the little girls said that the one girl needed to wear her best dress because \_\_\_\_\_.

---

---

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The father of the little girls had a very important job, according to the mother.
- A. True
  - B. False

- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The person telling the story thought a celebrity or a politician was coming to town.
- A. False
  - B. True

- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The person telling the story could tell that the person coming into the lobby was a man because why?
- A. He was wearing pants.
  - B. He had a strong masculine stride.
  - C. He had short hair.
  - D. He carried a briefcase.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. What did the crowd do when the soldier walked into the lobby?
- A. shook his hand
  - B. patted him on the back
  - C. welcomed him home
  - D. all of the above

9. How did the narrator's perception about the girls' daddy change from the beginning of the story to the end?

---

---

