

Shave Like Daddy

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When Crystal's father got a new job, he had to shave his beard. Crystal did not mind. Daddy's beard was scratchy. Daddy's beard was ugly. It was time for Daddy's beard to go.

She stared as he filled the sink with water. He smeared white suds over his scratchy brown beard. He picked up his razor. He dragged it slowly down his cheeks. In just a few minutes, his face was clean. He rinsed off and looked at Crystal.

"Wow!" she said. "I have a whole new daddy!"

"Do you like how your new daddy looks?"

She kissed his cheek. It was as smooth as can be.

"I sure do!"

While Daddy was at work, Crystal thought about his shave. She had never seen him do it before, but it came so naturally to him. He knew just what to do, and in the end, he looked perfect. She wanted to shave like Daddy.

Crystal was not stupid. She knew that girls didn't need to shave, especially not eight-year-old girls. And she also knew that if Daddy caught her fooling with her razor, he would not be pleased. But she wanted to know what it felt like to shave. It looked like so much fun!

Since she didn't have a beard, she didn't need a blade. But she would need something to "shave" with. A spoon was the wrong shape. A pencil was too pointy. Her mother's cell phone looked just like an electric razor, but Crystal knew Mommy didn't want shaving cream all over it.

"Maybe I can just use my hands!"

Crystal dragged her favorite stool in front of Daddy's sink. She pulled her hair back. She put on a very serious, fatherly face. She turned on the faucet.

The water spilled into the sink, too hot to touch. "Ow!" Crystal turned down the heat. She flicked it with her finger until it felt nice to touch. She pulled the stopper, and the sink began to fill.

Crystal gripped the can of shaving cream tightly. Just like Daddy had, she squirted it into her hand. Only she pushed a little too hard and her aim wasn't that good. Shaving cream squirted out in a stream, covering the counter and mirror, and, well, the whole bathroom.

"Oopsie," said Crystal. She picked up a glob of the cream and rubbed it onto her face. Putting her serious face back on, she massaged it into her cheeks. She felt just like a man in a shaving commercial, right until some of it got into her mouth. It tasted like sour goo.

“Yuck!” she spit it out, but the taste lingered. “Shaving is gross.”

Once she had a nice frothy beard, she was ready to shave. She crooked her finger and dragged it down her cheek, just like Daddy. She was about to rinse her finger in the sink when she realized she’d made another mistake.

She hadn’t turned off the water!

Some sinks have a little hole at the top for water to escape into when it gets too full. This sink did not.

While Crystal had been getting ready to shave, the bathroom had flooded. There was an inch of water on the floor and more spilling out by the second. Crystal turned off the sink. She rinsed off her face. She backed out of the bathroom on tiptoes.

“Shaving is harder than it looks,” she said. She wondered what Mom would do when she found the mess. A smile crossed her face. “Maybe she’ll blame Daddy!”

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What does Crystal want to do?

- A Crystal wants to cook.
- B Crystal wants to sew.
- C Crystal wants to shave.
- D Crystal wants to play baseball.

2. When in the story does Crystal's father shave?

- A at the beginning of the story
- B in the middle of the story
- C at the end of the story
- D at the beginning and the end of the story

3. Crystal likes the way her father looks without a beard more than the way he looks with a beard.

What evidence from the story supports this statement?

- A Crystal stares as her father starts to fill the sink with water.
- B Crystal kisses her father's cheek after he shaves off his beard.
- C Crystal knows that her mother does not want shaving cream all over her cell phone.
- D Crystal spits out shaving cream after some cream gets into her mouth.

4. Why is there a mess in the bathroom at the end of the story?

- A Crystal has squirted shaving cream all over the place and gotten water on the floor.
- B Crystal got shaving cream in her mouth while spreading it over her cheeks.
- C Crystal's father filled the sink with water and smeared white suds over his scratchy brown beard.
- D Crystal's father dragged a razor down his cheeks and then rinsed his face off.

5. Which sentence states a main idea of this story?

- A "'Do you like how your new daddy looks?'"
- B "'Maybe I can just use my hands!'"
- C "Crystal gripped the can of shaving cream tightly."
- D "'Shaving is harder than it looks.'"

6. Read the following sentences about Crystal's father shaving his beard: "In just a few minutes, his face was clean. He rinsed off and looked at Crystal. 'Wow!' she said. 'I have **a whole new daddy!**'"

What does Crystal mean when she says that she has **a whole new daddy**?

- A Crystal means that the man she thought was her daddy is actually someone else's daddy.
- B Crystal means that her daddy will probably not like his new job.
- C Crystal means that her daddy looks different without a beard.
- D Crystal means that her daddy looks the same without a beard.

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Shaving looks like fun to Crystal, _____ she tries it herself.

- A so
- B but
- C because
- D otherwise

8. What does Crystal wonder at the end of the story?

9. Based on the information in the story, how might Crystal's mother feel when she finds the mess in the bathroom?

10. Why might Crystal's mother blame Crystal's father for the mess in the bathroom? Support your answer with evidence from the story.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 550

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Shaving looks like fun to Crystal, _____ she tries it herself.

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8. What does Crystal wonder at the end of the story?

Suggested answer: Crystal wonders what her mother will do when she finds the mess in the bathroom.

9. Based on the information in the story, how might Crystal's mother feel when she finds the mess in the bathroom?

Suggested answer: Students should recognize that Crystal's mother will probably be upset when she finds the mess in the bathroom. Students may (but need not) provide the following bases for their answer:

- Crystal expects her mother to "blame" someone.
- Crystal knows her mother would not want shaving cream all over her cell phone. Therefore, her mother would probably not want shaving cream all over the bathroom, either.

10. Why might Crystal's mother blame Crystal's father for the mess in the bathroom? Support your answer with evidence from the story.

Suggested answer: Responses may vary, as long as they are supported by the story. Examples include the following:

- Crystal's mother might blame Crystal's father for the mess because she will think he made it. He is the one who usually shaves in the bathroom. (acceptable answer)
- Crystal's mother might blame Crystal's father for the mess because he let Crystal watch him shave. Watching her father shave is what gave Crystal the idea of trying to shave herself. (sophisticated answer)