

The Graduation of Jake Moon

By Barbara Park

Characters:

Skelly - Jake's grandfather, short for S. (Sherman) Kelly Moon, retired housepainter, restored furniture after he retired

Mavis Moon - Jake's mother, moved in with her father, Skelly, after Jake was born, accountant

Lucas Carney - Jake's best friend

Etta Gerber - Neighbor who looked in on the Moon men while Mavis was at work

Aunt Marguerite - Jake's Aunt, got a lot of money in her divorce settlement

James - Jake's cousin, Marguerite's son

Claude Harper - Skelly's best friend as a kid, he comes to believe that Jake is Claude

Lanna - Skelly's registered nurse caregiver, quit after Jake was late in relieving her one day

Aaron Friar - moved in in 6th grade and sat next to Jake

Alma Russel - Skelly's caregiver after Lanna left, gets him out of the dumpster, calls Jake "Bud"

Campbell Burns - Cab driver who brought Skelly home

Mrs. Rook - Jake's school principal

Questions:

1. At the start of the book, what does the old man at the Dumpster do when the boys shout insults at him? At first he has no reaction, then his face brightens and he waves and shouts "Hello!"
2. Why did Jake's grandfather name him? His mother was stressed out for the first two weeks after he was born and never bothered to name him. When they moved in with Skelly, Skelly just started calling him Jake.
3. What was Skelly's nickname for Thorbert Piddler? Thor, God of Thunder
4. What month was Skelly diagnosed with Alzheimers and what grade was Jake in? November of 3rd grade.
5. What did Jake find in the freezer on his first day of 4th grade? Skelly's pajamas
6. Where did Jake find wet sheets the first time Lucas came over? The oven
7. What did Skelly find when he was digging in the garden the first day Lucas came over? A red Ferrari matchbox car
8. What did Skelly do to try and help himself remember things? He taped post-it notes all over the house.
9. What was the last furniture restoration project Skelly worked on? A skuzzy little table that his daughter Marguerite had bought at a garage sale.
10. How did Skelly hurt himself when he was carrying Marguerite's skuzzy table? He went down the stairs too fast, fell four steps from the bottom, and broke both wrists.
11. How did Jake try to get Skelly to use his hands again? He asked him to play catch
12. How did Mavis keep Skelly from wandering out at night? She put deadbolts and bells on all the outside doors.
13. What sport did Jake start to play in 5th grade? Little League baseball
14. What did Skelly do during Jake's games? Started out in the bleachers but sometimes wandered off. Once stood up and announced "Cold beer here!"
15. What did Skelly do the night Aaron Friar slept over? Walked into Jake's room without pants on
16. What instrument did Jake want to learn, and why couldn't he take lessons? He couldn't take drum lessons because his mom couldn't find anyone to stay with Skelly on the lesson days.
17. Why was Jake late one day in relieving Lanna after school? He stopped to join a football game.
18. Where does Mavis take Skelly the morning after the dumpster incident? House of Pancakes for breakfast
19. What was Skelly trying to get in the bottom of the dumpster? Paint cans
20. What book did Jake have to give an oral report on in 8th Grade? The Pearl, by John Steinbeck
21. What night was Family Night dinner, and who attended? Sunday night, Jake, his mom, his Aunt

Marguerite, cousin James, and Skelly

22. What game show does Skelly enjoy watching? Wheel of Fortune
23. What breakfast cereal did Skelly eat? Cheerios
24. Why didn't Jake have to do his book report on the extended due date? There was a fire drill.
25. How did Skelly get lost when Alma took him to breakfast? He was helping some painters at the Senior Center when Alma went to check in, and the painter that was watching him looked away for a minute and Skelly wandered off.
26. Why did Jake apologize to James after Skelly was lost? He realized James loved Skelly too.
27. What idea did James have to help find Skelly? To put his picture on the local news.
28. How did Skelly get home? A cab driver brought him.
29. What did Skelly insist that the cab driver bring home with him? A shopping cart
30. What did James do after dinner on the first Family Night after Skelly was found? He helped Skelly push his shopping cart around the block.
31. What did Mrs. Russell wear on her head to Jake's graduation? A pillbox hat that looked like a mixing bowl
32. What did Skelly do at Jake's graduation? Went up on stage to get one of the ladders and knocked over a pile of books
33. What did Jake do after Skelly went up on stage? Went up and got him and brought him down to his mom and aunt Marguerite.

In What Book...

Does a boy give an old man his picture to remember the boy by?

Does a boy learn to do pull-ups on a tree in the backyard?

Does a man tell a story about how two of his friend's dogs were amputated after he ran over them with a lawnmower?

Does a man like to spend time sanding furniture?

Does a man break both wrists?

Does a boy decide not to run for class treasurer?

Does a boy see cheerleaders in a House of Pancakes?