

Lesson 12

READ THIS STORY #2, Basic

The Fourth of July

Our neighborhood celebrates the Fourth of July with a parade, followed by a barbecue picnic.

The parade is a casual event. Anyone who wants to can participate. Most of the kids decorate their bicycles or wagons with red, white, and blue streamers and balloons. Dad dresses up as Uncle Sam, and Aunt Helen puts on her Statue of Liberty costume. My sister even puts a leash on our beagle, who's quite conspicuous in his red, white, and blue outfit.

After the parade, the older men enjoy a game of horseshoes while younger couples play volleyball. The kids have three-legged races, and the winning teams get to be first in line when it's time to eat.

Reuben barbecues the chicken, while Emanuel cooks the hamburgers and hot dogs. Everyone else contributes their favorite dish, and we end up with an international dinner. Mrs. Chung usually brings a platter of egg rolls. The newest resident on our street, a bachelor from Jamaica, donates Jamaican grapefruit pie. Mr. Perez brings Mexican wedding cookies, which melt in your mouth.

The Fourth of July is my favorite holiday.