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Activity 2

A Trip to Remember

sequencing

The teacher asked the class to write a What I Did During Summer Vacation composition. Tawnee Barkas wrote the following narrative:

Our Trip to Chicago

We left our home in the Marina District of San Francisco on Monday. Our family Dad (36), Mom (32), me (11), Lisa (7) and Brad (5) had gotten up at 5:30 because Mom wanted to get an early start on our trip to Chicago. That was the first mistake, but there were lots more. Maybe I should say that going to Chicago was our first mistake. Somehow (I don t really know why) Dad forgot to fill up the gas tank of our old Ford station wagon, and we ran out of gas just two miles after we d passed the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge toll plaza on the Oakland side. He had to walk nine blocks and then wait 20 minutes until a service station opened up. It was 7:30 when we ran out of gas. (Remember we got up real early!) As luck would have it, after Dad got the gas and began walking back to the car, it started to rain hard. That made him almost as mad as when we were in a motel in Omaha and the handle came off the hot water faucet in the shower and he scalded his hand. That experience must have made him decide we could make it all the way to Chicago the next day. We should have been prepared for motel problems because the night before, in Cheyenne, the desk clerk said they didn t have any reservation for our family. There was a convention in

town, and there wasn t a room to be had in any motel or hotel. We slept in the car. Uncomfortably, I might add.

It was lucky we had a good motel room in Reno after running out of gas in Oakland because I think Mom would have made Dad turn around and go home if it had been a bad one. She didn t want to go to see the Chicago Cubs play anyway. We had some excitement in Wyoming. Before we got to Laramie, Brad spotted some wild burros in a field near the road. He talked Dad into letting him out of the car to see them better,

