

Melanie's journal

January 11th

I can't believe it. How could they do this to me - Year 5, practically at secondary school and they tell me we are moving. What about my friends? My room? I've lived here since I was three. What about club? Miss Appleford? Gemma and Kaylie? What are they thinking about - I just can't stop thinking about it. I don't believe it - I can't believe it. I feel sick inside - it's just impossible to take in. How could they??????

January 28th

Mum and Dad are still going on about it but it seems to have died a bit of a death to be honest - I don't see how they could manage it with their jobs to change and everything. They say it will happen in June but I don't think their hearts are in it any more. Anyway, I'm just getting on with life - no point in telling friends if it's not going to happen anyway. Most of the time I don't think about it now - funny isn't it how you change! It seemed like the most important thing in the world a couple of weeks ago.

March 15th

You won't believe this - after weeks of not even mentioning it they're saying it's definite. NEXT WEEK - without even asking me - like I don't matter. What do they care if I have to change school and make new friends - they obviously don't care about my education. They are so, so selfish - they only care about themselves. What's worse is that we're going to Southfield and I can't even come back for weekends - Gemma and Kaylie agree with me. It shouldn't be allowed - I feel like running away.

March 24th

It is so so so much worse than I ever could have imagined. I hate the house. I hate the school. I hate the teachers. I hate the other children - they think they are soooo la-di-da - much too good to have anything to do with me. I just can't tell you how it makes me feel every day, having to go there - I hate it hate it hate it. They all look at me like I'm an alien and no one even bothers to speak to me in the playground. I pretend I don't care and read my book, but I've already nearly got into a couple of fights and the teachers are all on their side. What a surprise. It's just not FAIR. There's a new boy - Simon - started last week but he seems to have made friends with everyone already. Mind you, he couldn't wait to get away from his old school apparently. What's wrong with me? Maybe it's just because boys play football so it's easier for them. I don't know. I miss Gemma and Kaylie so much. Yesterday I even wished my dad would lose his job or have an accident or something so we could go back to how it was.

June 15th

I've just read what I wrote in March. It's weird - I did hate it all so much then. But I sort of feel OK now. Not that it's anywhere as good as my old school, but some of the girls are OK - I was wrong to start with - when we actually talked it turned out that they had thought I was the stuck-up one! Anyway, I've got a whole stack of letters from Gemma, Kaylie - even Shanaz has written to me - it's great getting letters and guess what - in the summer I'm going to stay with Gemma for two weeks. I can't wait!!!

September 30th

Well - what a summer! Can't write now as I'm off out with Roxy (I promise I will tell you all about Roxy soon - she is such an amazing person - not a best, best friend like Gemma and Kaylie obviously but fun and stuff). I feel so lucky right now - fantastic summer with the gang, but now back to this new lot - they are great and I'm in all the sports teams - they do really proper netball here and I was always good at that. In fact my teacher says I can try for the county team! There are some things that are good about going to a bigger school. Went to visit the secondary school I might go to - it is AMAZING - you should see the DT stuff and drama suite - I can't wait to tell Kaylie - she'd love it. I wish she could move down here. That would be perfect.

Questions:

In your book write an answer to the questions below in full sentences. Do not copy the question.

1. Why was Melanie upset that her parents wanted to move? How did she feel?
2. What would she miss?
3. What do you think you would miss if you had to move to another city?
4. What do you think was difficult about starting at a new school?
5. Why didn't she make friends very easily to start with?
6. Why didn't Melanie write in her journal for a while between March and June?
7. Had she changed or had the other children at the school changed?
8. How did her feelings change from January to September?