

Words & Phrases in the story: **sth = something; sb = somebody.

give in (to sb about sth) = finally agree with sb about sth (after first disagreeing for a while)

sth is a reality check = sth causes you to accept that sth else is true (even though it's uncomfortable/difficult to accept)

get rid of sth = discard sth; sell sth; give away sth

sth is taking a toll on sb or sth = sth is gradually (over time) hurting or damaging sb or sth

sth is taking an emotional toll on sb = sth is gradually (over time) hurting sb emotionally

take sth or sb into consideration = think about sth or sb before making a decision

sb is torn between (two actions, people, etc) = sb finds it very difficult to decide between two possibilities

David is torn between chemistry and engineering. David is torn between playing basketball and football.

sb has a close call; sb's close call = something bad almost happens to sb (but finally nothing bad happened)

the fallout (**not**: the fallouts) = bad things that happen as a result of a bad thing that previously happened (*originally referred to dangerous things in the air after a nuclear explosion*)

sb's heart is set on sth or sb; sb's heart is set on doing sth = sb insists on having sth/sb or on doing sth

sb is provided for = sb receives enough money to live on in the future (e.g., through insurance, inheritance, retirement pay, etc.)

Jenny's husband David wanted a motorcycle for seven years, but Jenny feared for his safety. Last year she finally gave in, if he promised to take a safety course and buy a good helmet. Two months later, David had an accident and suffered several broken bones and a concussion. His accident was a reality check for Jenny, and now she is terrified of losing him. She has begged him to get rid of the bike, for she worries and often cries when he is out riding. The stress is taking a toll on her physically and emotionally, and it's creating tension between them. They both think the other is selfish for not taking the partner's feelings into consideration. **Jenny is torn between wanting David safe and wanting him to be happy; she also wonders if her own happiness should be tied to someone else's safety.** Jim is David's best friend; he told Jenny that if David's close call and Jenny's begging haven't stopped David from riding, the motorcycle is likely here to stay. Jim then told Jenny to protect herself from some of the fallout that might result from another accident. He said to tell David that if his heart is set on riding a motorcycle, she wants him to pay for a life insurance policy. That way, Jenny will be provided for in case of a tragedy. Jenny's friend Martha also suggested that Jenny plan an activity she can enjoy while he's out riding, which will give her something else to focus on and therefore reduce her stress. Martha says that happiness is mostly **a state of mind**, which shouldn't be tied to fear. She believes that happiness comes from contentment with things as they are, and a willingness to accept change. As Pres. Abraham Lincoln put it: "Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be."

Questions: (Are there any terms you want the teacher to explain?)

1. Tell us your opinion of David and/or Jenny. (include both positive and negative opinions) Why?
2. Share about a current (or past) situation that is taking (or took) a toll on you physically, emotionally, or mentally. How are you dealing with it? (**or**: How did you deal with it in the past?)
3. Discuss this proverb. How does it relate to Jenny and David's situation? "Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety." (Prov 11:14)
4. When you feel stressed out because you're under a lot of pressure, how do you reduce your stress? Explain.
5. What do you think of the advice from Jim and Martha? Two students should role play a discussion between Jenny and David, or between one of them and a friend. (Or role play a discussion about safety vs happiness during the pandemic.)
6. Share about one time when you were torn between two options. What are 2-3 things you took into consideration before making a decision? Later, were you satisfied with the result of your choice? Why or why not?
7. Share about one thing your heart is set on concerning your family, your career, or something else.

If time remains, discuss this quotation: "Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." –Mark Twain

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Lower English level:

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get rid of sth = discard sth; sell sth; give away sth

sth is taking a toll on sb or sth = sth is gradually (over time) hurting or damaging sb or sth

sb is torn between sb/sth and sb/sth else; sb is torn between doing sth and doing sth else =
sb is unsure which choice to make

David is torn between basketball and football. David is torn between playing basketball and playing football.
the fallout (**not**: the fallouts) = bad things that happen as a result of a bad thing that previously happened
sb is provided for = sb receives enough money to live on in the future

Jenny's husband David wanted a motorcycle, but Jenny feared for his safety. Last year she finally gave in. Two months later, David broke several bones in an accident. Now, Jenny is terrified of losing him. She has begged him to get rid of the bike. The stress is taking a toll on her physically and emotionally, and it's creating tension between them. They both think the other is being selfish. **Jenny is torn between wanting David safe and wanting him to be happy; she also wonders if her own happiness should be tied to someone else's safety.** Jim is David's best friend; he told Jenny to protect herself from some of the fallout that might result from another accident. She bought life insurance, so that she will be provided for in case of a tragedy. Jenny's friend Martha also suggested that Jenny plan a fun activity she can enjoy while he's out riding. Martha says that happiness is mostly **a state of mind**. She believes that happiness comes from contentment, and a willingness to accept change. As Pres. Abraham Lincoln put it: "Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be."

Questions: *(Are there any terms you want the teacher to explain?)*

1. Tell us your opinion of David and/or Jenny. (include both positive and negative opinions) Why?
2. Share about a situation currently (**or in the past**) that is taking (or took) a toll on you physically, emotionally, or mentally. How are you dealing with it? (**or**: How did you deal with it in the past?)
3. Discuss this proverb. How does it relate to Jenny and David's situation? "Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety." (Prov 11:14)
4. Share about one time when you were torn between two options. What are 2-3 things you took into consideration before making a decision? Later, were you satisfied with the result of your choice? Why or why not?
5. Two students should role play a discussion between Jenny and David, or between one of them and a friend.

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VERY low level

Jenny's husband David bought a motorcycle, but Jenny feared for his safety. After an accident, Jenny begged him to get rid of the bike. The stress is taking a toll on her physically and emotionally, and it's creating tension between them. **Jenny is torn between wanting David safe and wanting him to be happy.** Jim is David's best friend; he told to buy life insurance, so that she will be provided for in case of a tragedy. Jenny's friend Martha also suggested that Jenny plan a fun activity she can enjoy while he's out riding. Martha believes that happiness comes from contentment, and a willingness to accept change. As Pres. Abraham Lincoln put it: "Most people are about as happy as they make up their minds to be."

Questions: *(Are there any terms you want the teacher to explain?)*

1. What did David do, that his wife did not like?
2. How did David's accident affect his wife?
3. What advice did Jim give? What advice did Martha give? What advice would you give?
4. Tell us your opinion of David and/or Jenny. (include both positive and negative opinions) Why?
5. Share about one time when you were torn between two options. What are 2-3 things you took into consideration before making a decision? Later, were you satisfied with the result of your choice? Why or why not?
6. Two students should role play a discussion between Jenny and David, or between one of them and a friend.
7. Discuss this proverb. How does it relate to Jenny and David's situation? "Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety." (Prov 11:14)