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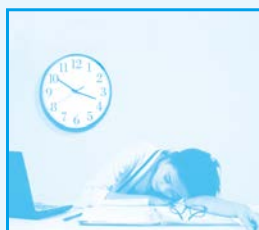
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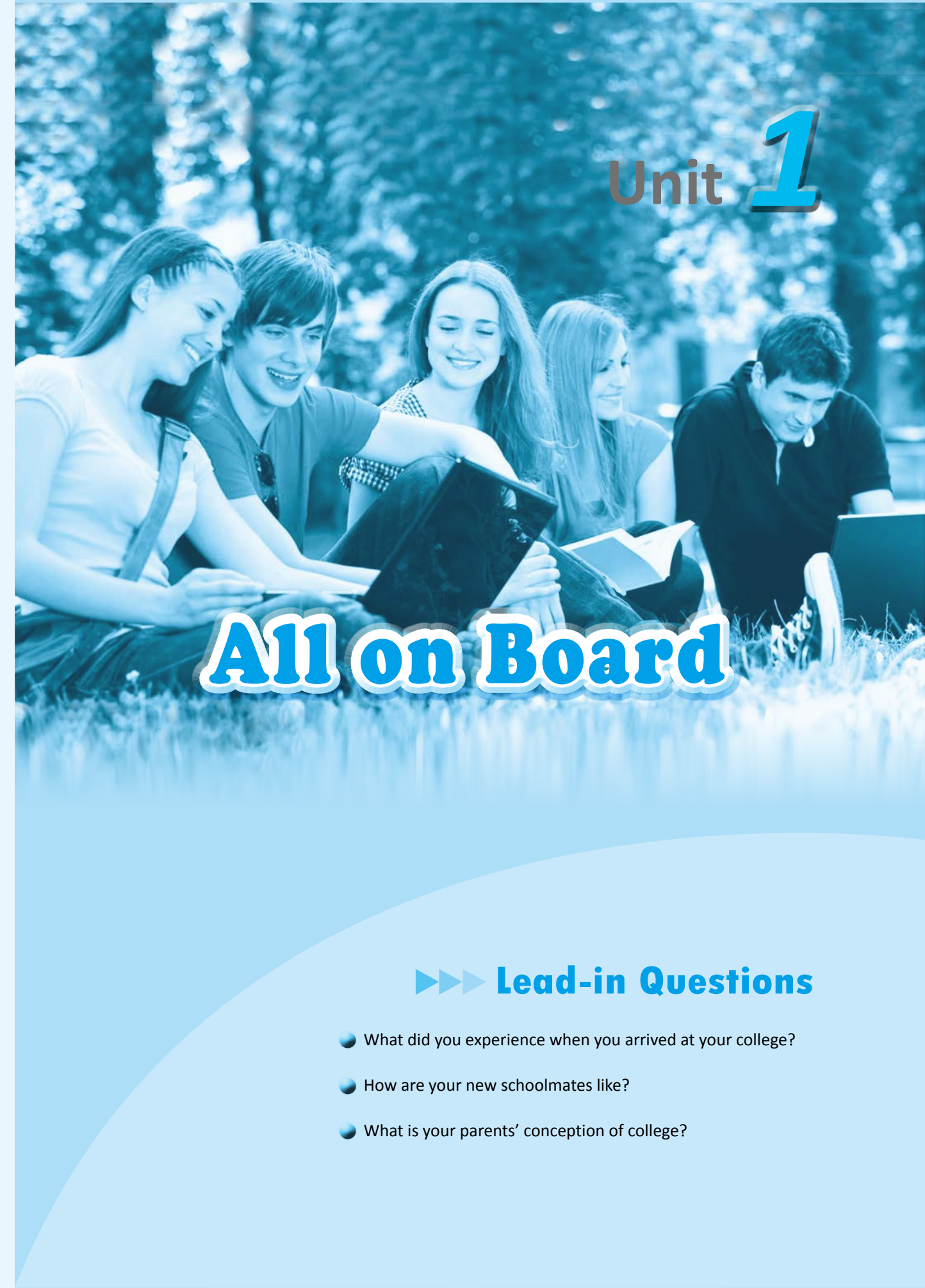


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# Unit **1**

## **All on Board**

### ▶▶▶ **Lead-in Questions**

- What did you experience when you arrived at your college?
- How are your new schoolmates like?
- What is your parents' conception of college?



## Reading One



### Jonny Goes to College

By Laurie Lindeen



#### Tips

I am about to travel cross-country in a fully loaded station wagon with my ex-husband. We are taking our only child to college in Colorado, where he will be starting his first year, and we are doing this as a family.

I am not a strict non-smoker. That said, no one has ever smoked in my car. But not until we're out of Minnesota, for the first time my ex lights up in the back seat. Every nerve in my body turns to rage, the white-hot indignation. Johnny, in the passenger seat, stiffens. My inner dialogue reminds me not to choose my battles, as we are only 90 minutes into a 16-hour drive. The smoker, I realize, is sad and stressed — like me. Apart from the fumes that plant me back in my own childhood, the drive is far more pleasant than I'd imagined. When I am not replaying Johnny's childhood, the three of us are sharing meals, having laughs, checking out Mount Rushmore, and it feels OK. Bittersweet, to be sure, but OK.

Once we arrive in Fort Collins, we are thankfully distracted by a

list of things we must do in a short period of time: Numbly, we move bags and boxes of clothes, linens, toiletries and school supplies into a cramped, dumpy cinder-block 1970s dorm room. The incoming freshmen have a packed schedule, and my ex and I are dismissed in the evening to our respective hotel rooms. We will all come together in the morning for breakfast and goodbyes. I wander around Fort Collins, trying to imagine which places Johnny and his new friends will haunt.

After breakfast, Johnny hugs and kisses his dad, then embraces me in a strong, strapping-young-man hug, burying his head in my neck; this is the exact position we found ourselves in while I walked the floors with him in my arms during his colicky ( 疝气痛的 ) phase, and as he did then, he is crying into my neck.

This shocks me. I haven't seen him cry like this since I told him that his father and I were separating. I can manage only, "I love you, sweet baby." Reeling back to the car after he walks into his new life, I turn to my ex and say, "That was a lot harder than I thought it would be." I plant my forehead on the steering wheel. I sob.

Not for long, though. I need to zip my ex to the Denver airport; he will fly back to Minneapolis and I will pick up my father, who is flying in from Detroit to drive home with me. I compose myself, and my ex turns to me and says, "Want a smoke?"

"Sure." I say.

By 2 p.m. my dad and I are singing show tunes from my dad's playlist, the songs we've always sung together. My dad insists on driving all night. I lie down in the back, look out the window and chime in to songs from "Jesus Christ Superstar," "The Music Man" and "West Side Story."

I am 6, I am 16, I am 54, and I feel completely safe. My dad has disappointed me on many levels throughout the years; like all of us, he is a flawed and wounded human being. But on one of the



Tips



Tips

most emotionally wrenching nights of my adult life, I get to relive something I thought would survive only in my memory: I get to have my dad drive me cross-country while I languish in the back seat singing along and watching the night sky. He is, once again, heroic in my eyes. At 6 a.m., we pull into Minneapolis, and I begin the confusing, uncomfortable process of settling into the empty nest.

## New words and Expressions

wagon /'wæɡən/ *n.* 四轮运货马(牛)车

indignation /ˌɪndɪɡ'neɪʃən/ *n.* 愤怒; 愤慨

stiffen /'stɪf(ə)n/ *v.* 僵直; 绷紧

fume /fju:m/ *n.* 烟雾; 怒火

distract /dɪs'trækt/ *v.* 分散(心思); 打扰

toiletries /'tɔɪlətrɪz/ *n.* 洗漱用品; 化妆品

numbly /nʌmblɪ/ *adv.* 失去知觉的; 麻木的

cramped /kræmpt/ *adj.* 狭促的; 拥挤的

dummy /'dʌmpɪ/ *adj.* 矮胖的; 丑陋的

haunt /haʊnt/ *v.* 经常拜访; 常去

steering wheel 方向盘

compose /kəm'pəʊz/ *v.* 使镇静; 使平静

chime /tʃaɪm/ *v.* 鸣响; 敲响

wrenching /renʃɪŋ/ *adj.* 折磨的

relive /rɪ'ɪv/ *v.* 再体验

languish /'læŋɡwɪʃ/ *v.* 衰弱无力; 失去活力

## Notes

Colorado

科罗拉多州(美国西部一州)

Minnesota

明尼苏达州(美国北部一州)

Mount Rushmore

拉什莫尔山(美国著名旅游胜地, 别名“总统山”)

Fort Collins

科林斯堡(美国城市名)

Denver

丹佛市(科罗拉多州的首府)

Minneapolis

明尼阿波利斯(明尼苏达州最大的城市, 别名“双子城”)

Detroit

底特律(美国密歇根州最大的城市, 别名“汽车城”)

## Reading Comprehension

**1. Read the passage and choose the proper words for the blanks. Only 10 of the 15 words in the box are needed, and you may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.**

|               |                 |              |             |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|
| A. stiffened  | B. respectfully | C. forehead  | D. sobbing  | E. snapped      |
| F. privileged | G. Weirdly      | H. wrenching | I. settle   | J. shook        |
| K. unease     | L. twitched     | M. rage      | N. embraced | O. respectively |

A Night Flight as exhaustive as always, I emptied by a divorce, the matter of late, and my son's departure for college. This was one of the most emotionally 1)\_\_\_\_\_ nights of my adult life, yet I was 2)\_\_\_\_\_ enough to be accompanied by my father. 3)\_\_\_\_\_ enough, I also found a peace that passed my understanding. From the days of a little girl, to my adolescent days, and till this day, time and again have I enjoyed the assurance that I am completely free from any anxiety.

The departure started with the three of us driving from Minneapolis. Not until for the first time we drove out of Minnesota, my ex lit up his first cigarette. Consumed with 4)\_\_\_\_\_, I could hardly 5)\_\_\_\_\_ with his behaviour. An air of 6)\_\_\_\_\_ spread about quickly and soon became evidently palpable: Johnny, my son, 7)\_\_\_\_\_. "It's a long day's journey into night", constantly must I remind myself lest I lashed out.

And night came, before we arrived at Fort Collins and lodged ourselves 8)\_\_\_\_\_, and sleepless it came for me.

The next day, after breakfast, we 9)\_\_\_\_\_ and said goodbye. Johnny buried his head in my neck and cried. Instantly reminded of the days in his younger phase, and verging out of control, I returned to the car 10)\_\_\_\_\_ with my forehead bumping on the steering wheel.

**2. Read the passage and choose the best answer to each question or unfinished statement.**

1) Where does the family come from?

- A. Colorado
  - B. Minnesota
  - C. Denver
  - D. Detroit
- 2) When her ex-husband smokes, how does the author feel?
- A. Angry, but accepted finally.
  - B. Sad and stressed.
  - C. Far more pleasant than imagined.
  - D. Composed.
- 3) Which of the following CANNOT explain why the author accepts her ex-husband's proposal to smoke?
- A. She is not a strict non-smoker.
  - B. She understands how sad and stressed a smoker is.
  - C. She thinks the goodbye is a lot harder than she thought.
  - D. She relives something she thought would survive only in her memory.
- 4) Which of following is FALSE about the author according to the passage?
- A. She drives to the college.
  - B. She thinks of her past several times on her journey.
  - C. She forgives her ex-husband for smoking in the car.
  - D. She thought that her father is a hero in her childhood.
- 5) What emotion does the passage express?
- A. Sad and stressed.
  - B. Bittersweet.
  - C. Emotionally painful.
  - D. Confusing and uncomfortable.