Change is everywhere. The workers at Crossroads Café change jobs. Carol and Jess change roles.

What do they learn from the changes?
Who's in This Story?

Jess Washington  
retired, a regular customer

Carol Washington  
Jess's wife, who works

Rosa  
the cook

Henry  
the delivery person

Jamal  
the handyman

Mr. Victor Brashov  
the café owner

Katherine  
the waitress
It is closing time at Crossroads Café.

Mr. Brashov is having something to eat.

I asked for a hamburger and french fries.

But fish and fresh vegetables are better for you.

That is a big fish.

Not as big as the fish he’ll catch on his vacation.

The fish I’m going to catch will be this big.

I will camp and fish... my dream vacation.
Jamal enters the dining area.

Jamal, what happened?
The pipe leaks.

A delivery man enters the restaurant.

Where's the rice?
What rice?

Jess, How can I take a vacation? How can Crossroads Café get along without me?

Mr. Brashov doesn't think we can manage the café.

Check Yourself

1. What does Mr. Brashov want to do on his vacation?
   a. see his family
   b. fish and camp

2. Why can't Mr. Brashov take a vacation?
   a. He has too much work to do.
   b. He is too sick to take a trip.

Hi, honey.
I have a surprise for you.

It's not my birthday.

We can't afford it.

Don't you like your watch?

With my job, we can afford some extras.

Maybe we should start dinner.

I'm not hungry now.

Early the next morning at the café...

Last night I was thinking...

Everyone's job is important. We need to learn one another's jobs. One of us may get sick.

Tomorrow, you will all trade jobs for one day.

Who will do what job?
Rosa, you will do my job. Katherine will cook. Henry will be the waiter. Jamal will make the deliveries.

Check Yourself

3. Why isn’t Jess happy about the watch?
   a. He says they can’t afford it.
   b. He says he doesn’t need it.

4. Why does Mr. Brashov want the workers to trade jobs?
   a. because someone may get sick
   b. because someone may quit

It is night at Jess and Carol’s house.

How was work?

Crazy. I hope you didn’t start dinner. I want to try a new restaurant.

But it’s not Saturday. We only eat out on Saturday.

Now that I’m working, we can afford to eat out more often.

No, we can’t. Look at these bills.

I know. I paid some of them last night.

You what? Why did you do that?
Jess, it's no big deal. I can add and subtract just like you can.
I pay the bills.

In other words, do it your way.
But it's less confusing if one person pays the bills.

Now that you work, we argue all the time.

We don't argue because I work. We argue because you have to control everything.

Where are you going?

Out.

Stop feeling sorry for yourself.

Later the same night at Crossroads Café...

Jess?

All of a sudden you're the boss and I'm Mr. Nothing.
The next day at Crossroads Café...

How did things go with Carol last night?

She was asleep when I got home.

As Victor and Jess play chess, the workers start their new jobs.

Katherine cooks.

Henry waits tables.

Rosa manages the café.

Jamal makes deliveries.
Victor, your experiment is working.

We will know soon. The lunch crowd will be here soon.

Five, four, three, two, one . . .

The lunch crowd arrives.

Katherine and Henry look worried.

Katherine works as fast as she can.

Rosa gives a customer the wrong change.
Henry drops a customer’s food.

You’re going to lose business because of all this.
I will apologize later. They will come back.

Check Yourself

7. When do the workers begin to have trouble with their new jobs?
   a. in the morning, when they begin their new job
   b. at lunch time, when a crowd comes

8. What does Jess think will happen to Mr. Brashov’s business?
   a. He will lose business.
   b. He will get more business.

Why aren’t you at work?
I’m on my lunch break. I wanted to see how you were doing.

Something is different about this place.
Trading places is more difficult than they thought.

It’s Victor’s experiment. He wanted everyone to switch jobs for a day.
Sounds like us. Our roles aren’t the same as they used to be.
55
You mean because you're working and I'm not?

56
More than that, it's about change, and change is not easy.
The watch is very handsome. I'm glad you didn't return it.

57
Jamal comes back from a delivery.

58
Hello?
There is no need to yell, Mrs. Johnson.

59
Mr. Brashov? Katherine, call 911!

60
✅ Check Yourself

9. How are Carol and Jess's roles different?
   a. He works and buys her things now, but he didn't used to.
   b. She works and buys him things now, but she didn't used to.

10. What does Carol say about change?
    a. It is easy.
    b. It is not easy.
Tell the Story

Put the pictures and sentences in order. For each story, number 1 to 3. Then tell each story to someone.

Jess and Carol's Story

1. Carol gives Jess a present.
2. Carol and Jess have a fight.
3. Jess tells Mr. Brashov about the fight with Carol.

The Workers' Story

1. The workers have trouble in their new jobs.
2. At first the experiment works.
3. Mr. Brashov decides to try an experiment.
Search

Look at the picture. Read the sentence. Circle Yes or No.

1. Look at Picture 2
   Rosa says fish and vegetables are better for Mr. Brashov than hamburger and french fries.

   YES  NO

2. Look at Picture 13
   Carol bought Jess a gift because it's Jess’s birthday.

   YES  NO

3. Look at Picture 39
   Katherine is usually the waitress. Today, she is the cook.

   YES  NO

4. Look at Picture 40
   Henry is usually the delivery person. Today, he is the manager.

   YES  NO

5. Look at Picture 42
   Jamal likes to make deliveries.

   YES  NO

6. Look at Picture 59
   Mr. Brashov is a sick man.

   YES  NO
Build Your Vocabulary

Jess and Carol's Living Room

Read the words in the list. Find the numbers in the picture.

1. curtain
2. plant
3. plant stand
4. door
5. coat
6. picture
7. coat rack
8. table lamp
9. newspaper
10. easy chair

Complete the sentences. Use the words from the picture.

1. Carol is standing in front of the ___ door ___.
2. She is carrying her __________.
3. Her right hand is resting on a ____________ ____________.
4. On top of the plant stand there is a ____________.
5. Above the plant stand there is a ____________.
6. Carol's husband Jess is sitting in an ____________ ____________.
7. He is holding a ____________.
8. It is dark, but he can see because the ____________ ____________ is on.
9. Behind the table lamp there is a ____________ ____________.
10. It is night, so the ____________ over the window is closed.
Picture Dictionary

Study the picture and the English word. Copy the word. Then you may write the word in your language.

1. $2 + 2 = 4$
   - add
   - add
   - my language

2. camp
   - __ __ __ __

3. drop
   - __ __ __ __

4. fish
   - __ __ __ __

5. gift
   - __ __ __ __

6. $10 - 2 = 8$
   - subtract

7. watch
   - __ __ __ __

Glossary

afford: to have the money to buy something or to do something. Henry can afford to rent a tuxedo.

argue: to fight. Brothers and sisters often argue about toys.

crowd: many people. There is always a crowd when a store has a sale.

experiment: trying something new. Rosa's special is often an experiment.

leak: lose water. The glass leaks, so the table is wet.

switch: change or exchange; trade. Sisters often like to switch clothes.