

A New Life

Grandfather turned around for one last look as the train pulled out of the station. Silently he said goodbye to the tall buildings and the bustle of the city. He was headed out west.

Grandfather had heard stories about the limitless possibilities of claiming free land in the Wild West. It was dangerous but exciting. In Ohio he would buy a team of horses, a wagon, and supplies for a long trip. Then he would join thousands of people already heading to open territories.

People were traveling west because of the Homestead Act, signed in 1862. It allowed anyone twenty-one years old or older to claim unsettled lands. If they built a house and kept up the land for five years, then it was theirs to keep. Grandfather was hopeful that he could build a new and prosperous life.

What is the subject of this passage? _____

What is the main idea of this passage? _____

Name _____