

Wide Load

Laurel Haines

CHARACTERS

SARA WILSON (9 YEARS)

MICHAEL WILSON (7 YEARS)

MRS. WILSON

MR. WILSON

MRS. LOPEZ

MR. GREEN

DAN, THE MOVER

VICKI, THE MOVER

POLICE OFFICER

DARRIN (8 YEARS)

SHEILA (9 YEARS)

SOUND EFFECT VOICES 1-2

NARRATORS 1-4

Moving brings adventure
and excitement to a
family, but some things
stay the same.

SCENE 1

NARRATOR 1 Michael and Sara Wilson were sad. Soon, they would have to move.

NARRATOR 2 You see, their town wanted to build a new fire station at the corner of Main Street and Third Avenue. That's exactly where the Wilson's house stood.

NARRATOR 3 Mom and Dad said the family would have to move to a new house. Then the town would tear down their old house and build the fire station.

SARA I don't want to move, Michael. I love our house.

MICHAEL I do, too, Sara! We have so many big, sunny windows.

SARA And so many good places to hide.

MICHAEL I even like the way our house smells!

NARRATOR 4 One day, Michael and Sara were playing outside when two strangers came to the house.

NARRATOR 1 The strangers talked to Michael and Sara's parents for a few minutes. Then Mrs. Wilson called the kids inside.

MRS. WILSON Sara? Michael?

MICHAEL Coming, Mom!

MRS. WILSON Sara and Michael, we'd like you to meet our visitors.

MR. WILSON This is Mrs. Lopez and Mr. Green. They are members of our town council. They help decide what happens in our town.

MRS. LOPEZ We have some news for you about your house, Sara and Michael.

MR. GREEN Yes, we do. Your parents have told us how much you love the house, kids. And the town wants you to be able to keep it.

MICHAEL You mean they're not going to build the fire station? We can stay?

MR. GREEN Well, not exactly. They're still going to build the fire station.

SARA Oh no!

MRS. LOPEZ But your house is special, Sara and Michael, because it's over one hundred years old. It's part of our town's history.

MR. GREEN That makes it a historic house.

MRS. WILSON And the town wants to save historic houses. So we still have to move, but our house can move with us.

MICHAEL Our house can move? How can it do that?

MR. WILSON Wait and see. It's going to be very exciting.

NARRATOR 2 After Mrs. Lopez and Mr. Green left, Michael and Sara felt better. Soon they even began to get excited about moving.

SCENE 2

NARRATOR 3 One morning, a big, noisy tractor drove up.

SOUND EFFECT VOICE 1 (*ad lib tractor noises*) Rummm,
rummm!

SARA The movers are here! The movers are here!

MICHAEL Will they move our house today?

MR. WILSON No, Michael. They'll move it later this week.

MICHAEL Why do they have to wait that long?

MRS. WILSON Why don't you ask the movers, Michael?

DAN, THE MOVER Hi, I'm Dan and this is Vicki. We're going to move your house. We have other helpers, of course, but they're busy right now.

MRS. WILSON Hi, Dan, Vicki. Meet Michael and Sara. They have some questions for you.

MICHAEL Why can't you move our house today?

VICKI, THE MOVER We have lots of prep work to do, Michael.

SARA What does that mean?

VICKI Prep work means things you do first, like getting pencil and paper together before you start your homework.

DAN First we jack up the house. We use big machines to lift it off the foundation.

VICKI Then we put the house on wheels. Finally, we hook the house to the tractor and pull it through town.

MR. WILSON Come on, kids. We'd better let the movers get started.

NARRATOR 4 For the next few days, the Wilsons stayed with their next-door neighbors. It was the perfect spot to watch the movers work.

NARRATOR 1 Michael and Sara saw them jack up the house. . .

SOUND EFFECT VOICE 2 Crank crank creak creak uhhrrr
AWK.

NARRATOR 2 . . . Roll wheels under it . . .

SOUND EFFECT VOICE 1 SQUEAK squawk uhhrrr eek,
SQUEAK squawk uhhrrr eek.

NARRATOR 3 . . . And attach it to the big tractor.

SOUND EFFECT VOICE 2 CLANG!

NARRATOR 4 At last it was time to move the house. Two police officers showed up. Their job was to clear traffic ahead of the house on wheels.

VICKI Wait! We have to put this sign on the back.

SARA It says "Wide Load." What does that mean?

POLICE OFFICER When we go through town, kids, your house will be the biggest thing on the road. That sign tells other drivers to leave room for it.

VICKI Okay everybody, let's get going!

NARRATOR 1 The Wilsons stepped into their car. . .

NARRATOR 2 . . . The police officers got onto their motorbikes. . .

NARRATOR 3 . . . And Vicki and Dan climbed onto the tractor.

NARRATOR 4 Vicki honked the horn.

SOUND EFFECT VOICE 1 HONK, HONK, HONK!

NARRATOR 1 And the house started to move!

NARRATOR 2 Vicki drove slowly, slowly through town.

NARRATOR 3 Some streets were narrow. The house had to squeeze through.

ALL AVAILABLE VOICES (*ad lib*) Ahh! Oh! Ooooh!

SARA Don't hit that mailbox!

MICHAEL Watch out for that flagpole!

NARRATOR 4 But Vicki didn't hit anything at all. The house rolled past the library, over the hill, and into the Wilson's new neighborhood.

NARRATOR 1 When Vicki parked the tractor, everyone cheered.

ALL AVAILABLE VOICES (*ad lib cheering and clapping*)
Hooray! We did it.

SCENE 3

NARRATOR 2 The Wilsons and the moving crew stood at the front of the new lot.

MICHAEL Wow! Look at that big hole in the ground!

DAN That's where we're going to put your house, Michael.

MICHAEL Cool, Dan!

SARA See those kids playing ball in the park?

MICHAEL It looks like two of them are coming over here.

DARRIN (*shouting*) Hi! I'm Darrin.

SHEILA And I'm Sheila. So what's going on here?

MICHAEL Hi, Darrin and Sheila. My name is Michael. And this is my sister, Sara. We're moving our house here.

SHEILA I didn't know you could do that!

SARA Neither did we. But there's our house on the trailer behind that tractor.

DARRIN Cool! Hey, can we look inside?

DAN Not yet, kids.

SARA (*aside*) That's Dan, one of our movers.

DAN There's lots to do before anyone can go inside. We have to put the house on its new foundation. Then we have to connect all the pipes and wires.

MRS. WILSON After that, we can move in. Hi, Darrin and Sheila. I'm Mrs. Wilson, Sara and Michael's Mom. And this is Mr. Wilson, their Dad.

DARRIN, SHEILA Hello, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson. Nice to meet you.

SHEILA We've got to get back to the game now, Darrin. 'Bye, everyone.

ALL AVAILABLE VOICES (*ad lib*) 'Bye. See you later. Nice to meet you.

NARRATOR 3 A few days later, the Wilsons moved back into their old house.

NARRATOR 4 In their new neighborhood.

MICHAEL You know what? I feel good about our move. We still have our house, and this new neighborhood is really cool! What do you think, Sara?

SARA I still have my room, just as it was. But I also have lots of new friends. How about you, Mom?

MRS. WILSON I really like our new neighbors. "Thumbs up" for me, Sara!

MICHAEL Dad?

MR. WILSON I love this house . . . always have. (*Pauses.*) It scared me, though, seeing our house rolling down the street. I'm glad it isn't a wide load any more!