

APPENDIX 1.9 Sample Piece “The Beach House”: Version 1

The Beach House

One July, Carlo’s family stayed with relatives at a house near the ocean. The beach was just down the road. They were going to stay at the house for two weeks. Carlo thought two weeks was a very long time.

On the first day, Carlo ran down to the beach. The water was blue-green and cold. Carlo ran, screaming, into the water and back out. He was so excited to swim in the ocean. His older sister, Priscilla, swam long laps, and Carlo ran alongside her on the wet sand.

On the first night, Carlo and his extended family ate crab and corn-on-the-cob. Carlo was starving. He was also so tired after being in the sun all day. From his bed, he could hear the waves crash. He was happy to be at the beach house.

There was always something to do. On cloudy afternoons, Carlo and Priscilla picked raspberries

in the woods behind the house. They went on long bike rides. One rainy night, Carlo’s family went to the movies. Carlo ate an entire bag of popcorn. On the way home, they drove to the ocean to see the moon over the water.

Then, one morning, Carlo’s father told him it was time to leave. Carlo refused. He didn’t want to leave at all, not one bit.

Priscilla took Carlo down to the beach. She promised they would come back next year. They could even bury something to dig up when they returned.

So Carlo and Priscilla dug a hole. Then they buried a box filled with their treasures—seashells, and a fishing hook, and a lucky pebble.

Carlo was happy that, now, he had to come back. He and Priscilla walked together over the dunes and back to the house.