a)

Life there was better than it had been in Ireland.

was= simple past, had been= past perfect.

b)

- 1.Her parents had gone to America two years earlier with her older brother.
- 2. After they had arrived in America they found a place to live and jobs in New York.
- 3.Life was better there than it had been in Ireland.
- 4. After everyone had boarded the ship, their journey began.

c)

- 1.Before Annie went to America, she had lived in Ireland for 17 years.
- 2.Before Annie left Ireland, she had said goodbye to her friends.
- 3. When they finally arrived in New York, they had been on the ship for 12 days.
- 4. After Annie had left the ship, she received ten dollars.
- 5. Annie was happy to see her parents, because she had not seen them for two years.