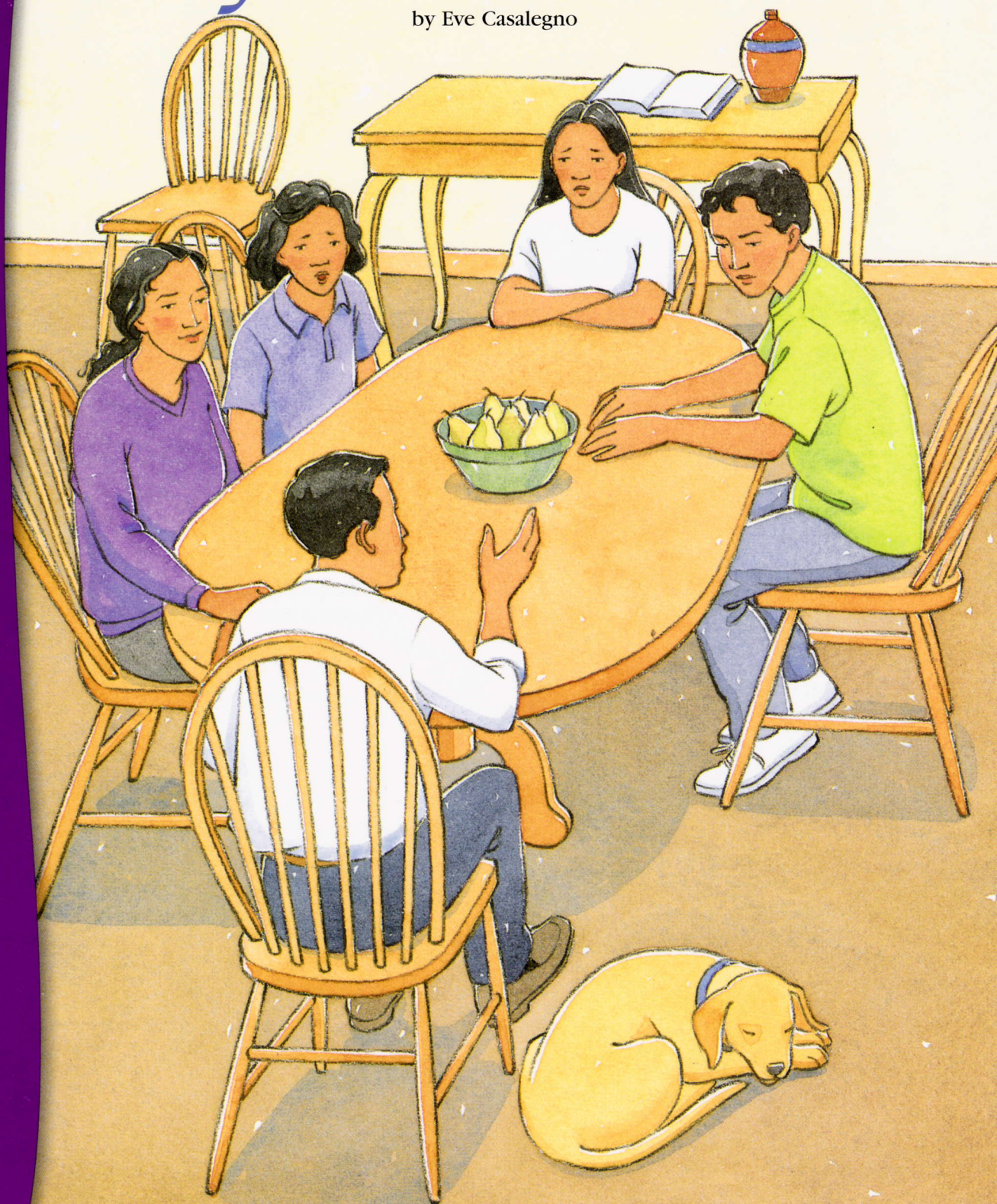


Grandma's Room

by Eve Casalegno

Purple 1c
Power Builder

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1 On Thursday, something very unusual happened at Elena's house. After dinner, Mr. Rivera called the children together. "All right, *bijos*, we're going to have a family meeting," he told them. Elena exchanged glances with her little sister, Rosa. Elena's older brother, Luis, raised his eyebrows, as if to ask a question.

2 The children helped clear the table and put the dishes in the dishwasher. Then, the whole family gathered around the big oak table in the dining room. Even the family's golden retriever, Chico, came in. He settled himself on the floor beside Mr. Rivera's chair.

3 Mr. Rivera looked around at the circle of faces. "Next week," he announced, "Grandma is coming to live with us."

4 Mrs. Rivera explained, "Grandma is going to sell her house. Now that she's alone, Grandma thinks it's too big for her. She's feeling a little lonely too."

5 "Selling her house?" Elena repeated, surprised at the news. She had always associated her *abuela* with the big, cream-colored house just a few blocks away. She had been going to Grandma's house ever since she was a little girl. She enjoyed climbing into the big, soft chairs. Plus the house was always full of delicious cooking smells.

6 Then Elena thought of something terrible. "Which room is Grandma going to have?" she asked her father.

7 "Well," Mr. Rivera said, looking at Elena and Rosa. "You girls are going to share Rosa's room."

8 Elena suddenly felt angry. She loved Grandma—but she loved her room too! Share a room with Rosa! No, it didn't seem fair to expect her to give up her room.

9 The next day at school, Elena felt upset. When she came home, she dropped her books on the kitchen table. She didn't even bother to eat a snack.

10 She went into the backyard, letting the screen door slam behind her. She sat down on a step. Chico came up beside her and nuzzled her hand. "Hi, Chico," she said quietly.

11 Mom came outside and sat down beside Elena. They looked out over the yard—at the bright patches of flowers, the birds in the trees, and the sun warming the grass. "Grandma will like it here," Elena said in a sullen voice.

12 Mom said, "Elena, I know it's hard to give up your room. But we need your help. In a family, we all have to help each other."

13 "Yes," Elena mumbled, "I know. But sharing a room with Rosa . . ."

14 Mom smiled. "Rosa is not so bad. Besides, sharing can be a good thing. You know all the new CDs you just bought? Well, Rosa just got that nice CD player for her birthday, and she hardly has any CDs. Maybe you could help each other out!"

15 Elena thought for a while. Then a smile began to creep across her lips. "That's true," she said. "Then I wouldn't have to use the player in the family room. Rosa *is* fun sometimes. And I love being with Grandma too! Maybe it won't be so bad. Maybe things will get better—not worse."

16 "Things always get better when family members work together and help one another," Mom said.

17 Elena's face brightened. Suddenly she said, "I'm hungry."

18 Chico barked. "And guess who else is hungry?" Mom said, getting up. "Come on, *bija*, let's go inside and have a snack. Then we can move your things into Rosa's room."

19 "And fix up Grandma's room too," Elena added.

COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.

- 1 This story was mainly about how Elena
 - a learned that family members should work together and help one another.
 - b felt sad that Grandma was selling her house.
 - c understood that she might like sharing a room.
- 2 Grandma was selling her house because it was too
 - a old for her.
 - b big for her.
 - c hard for her to clean.

- 3 When Elena understood that she'd have to share a room with Rosa, she felt
 - a angry.
 - b confused.
 - c jealous.
- 4 You could tell Elena was troubled when she came back from school because she
 - a didn't want to eat.
 - b sat down on a step.
 - c talked to the dog.
- 5 By the end of the story, Elena felt
 - a selfish.
 - b happy.
 - c disappointed.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 strange (1)
- 2 traded (1)
- 3 connected; related (5)
- 4 unhappy; disturbed (9)
- 5 rubbed with the nose (10)
- 6 gloomy; glum (11)
- 7 spoke in a low voice; muttered (13)

C A word may have more than one meaning. Its meaning will depend on how it is used.

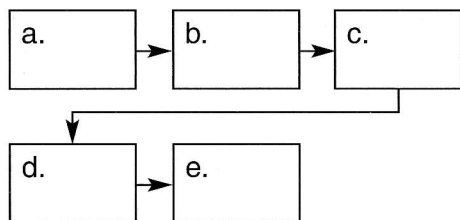
The *fly* buzzed around the room.
The bird will *fly* to its nest.

Look at each word in **bold type** below. Note the paragraph number. Look back at the paragraph. Which meaning does the word have there? Write *a* or *b*.

- 8 **blocks** (5)
 - a areas enclosed by streets
 - b solid pieces of stone or wood
- 9 **step** (10)
 - a stair
 - b motion made in walking
- 10 **patches** (11)
 - a pieces of cloth used for mending
 - b small areas

THINK ABOUT IT

- D** Look at the story map below. Complete the story map by writing the letter that tells in what order each event happened.



- 1 Elena remembers when she used to visit Grandma's house.
- 2 Mom helps Elena understand that in a family everyone should work together and help one another.
- 3 Mr. Rivera tells his family that Grandma is coming to live with them.
- 4 Elena and Mom are going to move Elena's things.
- 5 Elena doesn't want to share a room with Rosa.

- E** *Elena's* dog is a golden retriever.

You add an 's to a noun to show that someone or something owns something. There are also special pronouns that show the same thing.

Her dog is a golden retriever.

Read the sentences. Which word or words does each underlined pronoun stand for? Write *a* or *b*.

- 6 The children listened to Mr. Rivera. Then their mother spoke.
 - a The children's
 - b Mr. Rivera's
- 7 Elena asked, "Will Grandma have my room?"
 - a Grandma's
 - b Elena's

- 8 Mr. Rivera said to Elena, "You'll share a room with your sister."

- a Elena's
- b Mr. Rivera's

- 9 Mrs. Rivera sat beside her daughter. Mrs. Rivera listened to her problem.

- a Mrs. Rivera's
- b Her daughter's

- 10 Chico barked at Mom because he wanted his dinner.

- a Chico's
- b Mom's

- F** sadly = sad + **ly**

sadness = sad + **ness**

The letters *-ly* and *-ness* are called suffixes. A suffix is added to the end of a word. It changes the word's meaning. Adding the suffix *-ly* to a word makes the new word tell *how*. Adding the suffix *-ness* to a word makes the new word tell *what*.

Read each sentence. Which word in parentheses () makes sense? Write the word.

- 11 Father spoke to the family (quietly, quietness).
- 12 Elena thought about Grandma's house with (sadly, sadness).
- 13 Elena remembered the (softness, softly) of the big chairs.
- 14 Elena began to smile (slowly, slowness).
- 15 (Suddenness, Suddenly) Elena felt like eating a snack.