



"Mom ! I'm home !" John **slammed** (closed with force) the door and dropped his books on a nearby chair.

"Hi, John, home already ?" his mom welcomed him. She had just placed a plate of fresh-baked **cookies** (sweet biscuits) on the counter near the open window.

John took a cookie and looked outside. Pop-Pop, John's grandpa came through the door.

"Spring is here," Pop-pop said. "And you know what it means."

"Sure," John agreed. "Our annual fishing trip is coming up."

"I was thinking of our annual cleaning," John's mom suggested. "Tomorrow, Johh, you have no school and I can **expect** (hope of) some help, okay ?"

"Okay, okay," John agreed.

The next day John and his mom cleaned the house. They cleaned upstairs, downstairs, inside, outside, until everything was **spotless** (without any dirt). Pointing to Pop-Pop's chair, John's mom exclaimed : "Oh my ! That old chair has got to go. We'll buy Pop-pop a new one."

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Do you think throwing away this old chair is a good idea ?

Why ?

It was true, John had to agree. The chair was **faded** (ઝાંખી પડી ગયેલ) and **worn** (ખવાઈ ગયેલ) and in some places even torn.

"John, come and help me, we'll take the chair to the footpath. Tomorrow the garbage truck is going to come."

As they attempted to move the chair. Pop-Pop came through the door; "Oh, no!" he **objected** (opposed, disagreed), "You can't take my chair."

"But Pop, we'll buy you a new one," John's mom said.

"I don't want a new one."

"Pop-Pop, why do you want to keep such a dirty chair ?" John asked when his mother left the room. "It's so old."

"You don't understand, John." Pop-Pop shook his head from side to side and after a long pause he said, "I sat in this chair, when I proposed your grandma to marry me. It was so long ago, but when I sit in this chair and close my eyes I feel she is near." The old man passed his hand gently along the arm of the chair.

"And the night your father was born, I sat in this chair. I was nervous. I was scared (ડરી ગયો) when they placed the tiny baby into my arms, yet I was very happy."

"I think I'm beginning to understand," John said thoughtfully.

What has John begun to understand ?

"Many years later," Pop-Pop's voice broke and he **paused** (stopped for a while) for a moment and said, "I sat in this chair when the doctor called and told me that your grandma was dead. I was lost without her but the chair gave me comfort and **warmth** (ગરમી)."

"I'm sorry, Pop-Pop." John looked at his grandfather and said, "I understand now. This is not just any old chair. This chair is more like your friend."

"Yes, we've lived a lot together." Pop-Pop said.

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That night, when John and Pop-Pop were asleep, John's mom and dad carried the chair out to the footpath.

What would you have done if you were Pop-Pop ?

The next morning, when John came downstairs, Pop-Pop stood by the window and looked outside. A tear rolled down his hollow cheek. John saw the snow covered chair at the footpath out on the street. The sound of the garbage truck was coming closer. He ran outside. "Wait ! Don't take the chair," he shouted." Then he ran back inside and faced his mom. "Look at Pop-Pop, mom. You can't throw out his chair. This is not just a chair. This chair has been with Pop-Pop for a very long time. This chair is like his friend."

John's mom turned and looked at the old man. Slowly she walked towards him. With her ring finger, she wiped away a tear. And then said, "I'm sorry, Pop-Pop. I just didn't realize how much the chair meant to you. John and I will bring your chair back inside."

They **brushed off** (ਘੱਟਰੀ ਨਾਲ) the snow with their hands and pushed the chair back inside the house.

John and Pop-Pop **whole-heartedly** (fully) agreed that the living room looked dull without this old chair.

Do it Yourself

Q.1 (A) The underlined words indicating qualities of things or actions. Write 'A' if it refers to an action and 'T' if it refers to a thing :

1. They cleaned everything, until everything was spotless. ☐
2. The chair was faded and worn and in some places even torn. ☐
3. John saw the snow covered chair at the footpath. ☐
4. John and Pop-Pop wholeheartedly agreed that the living room looked dull without this old chair. ☐
5. The old man passed his hand gently along the arm of the chair. ☐

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(B) Tick (✓) mark in the appropriate box if the underlined word is appropriately used in the sentences :

1. Mitu was alone in the hostel at night. She slammed the door. Yes ☐ No ☐
2. It was Yuvi's birthday yesterday. He expected a gift from his friends. Yes ☐ No ☐
3. The house remained closed for years Everything is spotless. Yes ☐ No ☐
4. Ankur visited a newly opened furniture shop. There he saw faded chairs. Yes ☐ No ☐
5. This summer vacation Vincy wanted to join Tabla classes. Her parents wanted to take her on a tour. She opposed and went with them. Yes ☐ No ☐

Q.2 (A) Find out sentences from the lesson having almost similar meaning to these sentences :

1. Tomorrow is a holiday therefore you can help me.
2. The chair is old now.
3. We will throw away grandpa's chair.
4. This chair has given me happiness and love when I felt lonely without my wife.
5. The room looked brighter when the grandpa's chair was brought in.

(B) Answer these questions :

1. Why did mom decide to throw away Pop-Pop's chair ?
2. Make a list of grandpa's memories associated connected with the chair.
3. When did dad and mom put the chair out of their house ?
4. What was the grandpa's reaction when he saw the chair on the footpath ?
5. Does the story have a happy end ? How can you say so ?
6. Do you like John ? Why ?

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