

Name _____ Date _____

Grandma's Room

On Thursday, something very unusual happened at Elena's house. After dinner Mr. Rivera called the children together. "All right, hijos, 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. 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 Elena's chair.

Mr. Rivera looked around at the circle of faces. "Next week," he announced, "Grandma is coming to live with us." Mrs. Rivera explained "grandma is going to sell her house. Now that she's alone, grandma thinks that it's too big for her. She's feeling a little lonely, too." "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. The house was always full of delicious cooking smells.

Then, Elena thought of something terrible. "Which room is grandma going to have?" she asked her father. "Well," Mr. Rivera said, looking at Elena and Rose. "You girls are going to share Rosa's room." 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. 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. 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. 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.

"Yes," Elena mumbled, "I know, but sharing a room with Rosa...." 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!"

Elena thought for a while. Then, a smile began to creep over her mouth. "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."

"Things always get better when family members work together and help one another," mom said. Elena's face brightened. suddenly she said, "I'm hungry." Chico barked, "guess who else is hungry?" mom said, getting up. "come on, hija, let's go inside and have a snack. Then we can move your things into Rosa's room." "Fix up grandma's room, too," Elena added.