

“The Boy and His Grandfather”

by Rudolfo Anaya

In the old days it was not unusual to find several generations living together in one home. Usually, everyone lived in peace and harmony, but this situation caused problems for one man whose household included, besides his wife and small son, his elderly father.

It so happened that the daughter-in-law took a dislike to the old man. He was always in the way she said, and she insisted he be removed to a small room apart from the house.

Because the old man was out of sight, he was often **neglected**. Sometimes he even went hungry. They took poor care of him, and in the winter the old man often suffered from the cold. **One day the little grandson visited his grandfather.**

“My little one,” the grandfather said, “go and find a blanket and cover me. It is cold and I am freezing.”

What does the phrase *took a dislike* mean?

What does the word *neglected* mean? In what ways is the old man neglected? (Give specific examples from the text).

What can we infer about the grandson and grandfather’s relationship from this line?

The small boy ran to the barn to look for a blanket, and there he found a rug.

“Father, please cut this rug in half,” he asked his father.

“Why? What are you going to do with it?”

“I’m going to take it to my grandfather because he is cold.”

“Well, take the entire rug,” replied his father.

“No,” his son answered, “I cannot take it all. I want you to cut it in half so I can save the other half for you when you are as old as my grandfather. Then I will have it for you so you will not be cold.”

His son’s response was enough to make the man realize how poorly he had treated his own father. The man then brought his father back into his home and ordered that a warm room be prepared. From that time on he took care of his father’s needs and visited him every day.



What is revealed about the son and the father through this dialogue?



What does the father realize and what evidence can you find that shows the father has changed his ways?



What purpose does this story serve?



This story is told in a simple style with short sentences and easy-to-understand vocabulary. How does the simple style reinforce the story’s important message?