

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.
Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

The Rocking Chair

CHARACTERS

CARA: A 12-year-old girl

GRANDPA: Cara's grandfather

GRANDMA: Cara's grandmother

SCENE 1

- 1 *[The curtain opens, showing the back of a house. An old rocking chair sits on the back porch. Grandpa and Cara walk out the back door of the house and onto the porch.]*
- 2 **GRANDPA:** All right, Cara. Now that our bellies are full of pancakes, it's time to work!
- 3 **CARA:** Work? I thought you said we were going to be doing something fun, Grandpa.
- 4 **GRANDPA:** It *is* going to be fun.
- 5 **CARA:** Well, what are we going to do?
- 6 **GRANDPA:** See whether you can guess. *[Pointing toward the rocking chair.]* What's wrong with this picture?
- 7 **CARA:** I don't know.
- 8 **GRANDPA:** See that? This is what happens when you ignore something.
- 9 *[Grandpa nods his head and looks at the rocking chair, giving Cara a hint.]*
- 10 **CARA:** Grandma's rocking chair?

- 11 **GRANDPA:** Correct! The paint has been chipping for years—this chair was yellow, but you’d never know it. The wood is splintering. . . . And what about this? [*Showing Cara.*] This piece is cracked and about to break. Imagine your grandmother sitting down and having the seat collapse!
- 12 **CARA:** So let’s go buy her a new one to replace this old piece of junk.
- 13 **GRANDPA:** Now, now. The chair may be old, but it’s no piece of junk. We’re not going to buy a new one. You and I are going to fix this old rocker.
- 14 **CARA:** Fix it?
- 15 **GRANDPA:** That’s right. With our own two hands—well, our own four hands. It’ll be a great surprise for your grandmother. I have all the supplies we need in the garage.
- 16 **CARA:** Seriously? No offense, Grandpa, but that thing belongs in the garbage. And I think Grandma would love one of those nice rocking chairs they sell at Deedee’s Designs.
- 17 **GRANDPA:** [*Shaking his head.*] There’s no reason to purchase a new one when we can fix the one we have. Besides, this is your grandmother’s favorite chair, so it’ll be better than a new chair.
- 18 **CARA:** [*Doubtful.*] If you say so.
- 19 **GRANDPA:** Come on. [*Lifting up one side of the chair.*] Help me carry it into the garage.
- 20 [*Cara picks up the other side of the chair. The two carry it stage left as the curtain closes.*]

SCENE 2

- 21 [*The curtain opens. Cara and Grandpa are working on the chair inside the garage. Cara sands the wood, and Grandpa hums happily as he works on replacing the cracked piece.*]
- 22 **CARA:** Is this good enough, Grandpa?

- 23 **GRANDPA:** [*Feeling the wood.*] Almost. We want it to be smooth, and we don't want to see a speck of paint. [*Goes back to work.*]
- 24 **CARA:** [*Sighs.*] My hands hurt. This is taking forever.
- 25 **GRANDPA:** More sanding, less whining.
- 26 **CARA:** We should just buy a new chair. That's what most people do when things get old—they replace them.
- 27 **GRANDPA:** I'm not most people.
- 28 **CARA:** Very funny, Grandpa.
- 29 **GRANDPA:** I think you'll find we'll end up with a better chair this way—one that will make your grandmother very happy. . . . Aha! Look at this.
- 30 [*Grandpa places the new piece of wood securely in the chair. He proudly shows off his work.*]
- 31 **CARA:** It's a perfect fit.
- 32 **GRANDPA:** Yes, it is. Let's finish sanding. [*Grabs a piece of sandpaper and helps Cara.*] When your dad was a boy, this chair needed some attention, too. He and I worked on it for your grandmother.
- 33 **CARA:** Wow! I didn't know this thing was *that* old.
- 34 **GRANDPA:** Yes. And see how long it's lasted?
- 35 **CARA:** I guess you and Dad did a good job.
- 36 **GRANDPA:** [*Nodding.*] And your dad picked out the yellow color. Now it will be your turn to choose the color for Grandma's chair.
- 37 **CARA:** [*Feeling the chair.*] It's nice to know we fixed it ourselves. Is it ready to be painted?
- 38 **GRANDPA:** Yep. The chair looks great! It's time for you to pick the color.

39 **CARA:** Let's paint it blue and make the back rails yellow—to remind Grandma of the way it was before.

40 **GRANDPA:** Great idea.

41 [*Curtain closes.*]

SCENE 3

42 [*The curtain opens. Grandpa is admiring the rocking chair on the porch. Cara enters the porch from the back door of the house.*]

43 **CARA:** Grandma's coming!

44 **GRANDPA:** All right. Let's surprise her. [*Grandpa leans up against one of the porch posts, hiding the chair from view. He gestures for Cara to stand by him.*]

45 **GRANDMA:** [*From inside.*] Hello? Where is everyone?

46 **CARA:** We're out here, Grandma!

47 [*Cara and Grandpa exchange a smile as Grandma walks out onto the porch.*]

48 **GRANDMA:** Well, what are you two doing?

49 **GRANDPA:** Oh, nothing much.

50 **CARA:** Yeah, nothing much.

51 **GRANDMA:** Nothing much? I don't believe that.

52 [*Grandpa and Cara exchange a look. The two separate, revealing the rocking chair. Grandma stares at it.*]

53 **GRANDMA:** Oh, my! It's beautiful!

54 **CARA:** We did it for you, Grandma. We did it with our own four hands.

55 [*Curtain closes.*]

37 Which words in paragraph 11 help the reader understand the meaning of the word collapse?

- A** *chipping for years*
- B** *about to break*
- C** *sitting down*
- D** *wood is splintering*

38 Read these lines from the play.

CARA: Seriously? No offense, Grandpa,
but that thing belongs in the garbage.

These lines suggest that Cara believes the chair —

- F** has no value
- G** is not used often enough
- H** will take too long to repair
- J** is uncomfortable

39 The stage directions at the beginning of Scene 1 help the reader by —

- A** establishing the setting
 - B** introducing the main problem
 - C** explaining the plot
 - D** describing the characters
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40 Which line from the play supports the idea that Cara is proud of the work she has done with Grandpa?

- F CARA:** Is this good enough, Grandpa?
 - G CARA:** Grandma’s coming!
 - H CARA:** We’re out here, Grandma!
 - J CARA:** We did it with our own four hands.
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41 What lesson does Cara learn from Grandpa?

- A** Surprises can sometimes bring great joy to people.
- B** Spending time with a grandparent is fun no matter what you do together.
- C** Repairing old things to make them useful again can be rewarding.
- D** Old things lose their meaning when they are made to look new again.

42 In paragraph 52, the word revealing means —

- F studying
- G offering
- H moving
- J showing

43 Which quotation from the play best explains Grandpa’s reason for suggesting that he and Cara work on a surprise for Grandma?

- A **GRANDPA:** This is what happens when you ignore something.
- B **GRANDPA:** I have all the supplies we need in the garage.
- C **GRANDPA:** Besides, this is your grandmother’s favorite chair, so it’ll be better than a new chair.
- D **GRANDPA:** Now it will be your turn to choose the color for Grandma’s chair.

44 Read this stage direction from the play.

[Cara sands the wood, and Grandpa hums happily as he works on replacing the cracked piece.]

What does this stage direction suggest about Grandpa?

- F** He is good at repairing rocking chairs.
- G** He is enjoying his task.
- H** He has the tools needed to make repairs to the chair.
- J** He is glad that someone is helping him repair the chair.

