

# Roots and Rooftops: A New Beginning



Leo and Lily have just moved to a modern eco-house in the countryside. It is a large detached house with solar panels on the roof. "It is much more sophisticated than our old city flat," Lily says happily. But Leo feels sensitive and emotional. He misses his old friends and the busy streets. "You miss the city, don't you?" Lily asks, looking at her twin brother. Leo sighs because he has been feeling lonely since they arrived.





The twins go upstairs to the attic. This is their new shared bedroom. It is the most charming room in the house, but they have a problem. They have been arguing for days about how to decorate it. Leo wants dark blue walls, but Lily wants bright yellow. "I have been thinking about this for hours, and yellow is better!" Lily shouts. They are both angry and do not want to listen to each other.



Suddenly, there is a knock at the door. Their cousin, Maya, and their grandmother, Elena, have arrived for a visit. Maya lives in a very large extended family, so she knows a lot about sharing. "Welcome to your new home!" Maya says. Leo and Lily are happy to see them. Their small nuclear family feels much bigger and warmer now that their relatives are here.







Everyone goes into the kitchen. Grandma Elena has just baked a fresh batch of her famous treats. "My grandma makes the best biscuits in the whole world!"

Leo says, reaching for one. The kitchen smells wonderful. "I have been making these since I lived in a small farmhouse as a young girl," Grandma Elena tells him with a wink. Leo feels a little bit better already.

Lily sits next to Grandma Elena. "We can't agree on our room, Grandma," Lily explains. Grandma Elena pats her hand gently. "Moving is hard, dear. I have lived in many houses, and I know that change takes time. Time heals all wounds!" she says. She tells them stories about their family roots and how their ancestors always helped each other during difficult times.





Maya finds Leo sitting on the porch. "In my house, we have many people, so we must maintain unity," Maya explains. From the kitchen, they hear Grandma Elena's voice. "Remember the old saying: A house divided against itself cannot stand!" she calls out. Leo realizes that he has been too focused on what he wants, instead of what his sister needs.



Leo goes back to the attic to find Lily. "I want to acknowledge my mistakes," Leo says quietly. "I have been very sensitive because I miss our old home, but I shouldn't blame you for the move." Lily looks at him and smiles. "I have been acting selfishly, too," she admits. "I didn't want us to face failure in our new life, so I tried to control everything."





The twins decide to stop arguing. "We like the same things, don't we?" Lily asks. They decide to mix their ideas. They choose a light green color for the walls because it represents the eco-house and the nature outside. "We have been blaming each other for no reason," Leo says. "Let's work together to make this the best room ever."

They start working immediately. They do not ask their parents for help because they want to do it themselves. Lily paints one corner while Leo organizes the bookshelves. "I have been working on this shelf for twenty minutes, and it looks great!" Leo shouts. They are laughing and playing music while they work. They feel like a team again.







By the evening, the room is finished. It looks more beautiful than they imagined. Maya and Grandma Elena come upstairs to see it. "It is so cozy!" Maya exclaims. Leo hugs Lily. "We did it ourselves," he says proudly. Leo isn't sad about the city anymore. He looks at his family and his new home and smiles. "Home sweet home!" he says.

# DISCUSSION QUESTION

In the story, Leo and Lily solve their argument by compromising (mixing their ideas). Have you ever had a disagreement with a sibling or a friend?  
How did you solve the problem?



A yellow sun with rays is partially visible behind the top edge of the white sign. Three light blue clouds are scattered around the sign: one at the top right, one on the left side, and one on the right side.

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The background of the entire image includes a light blue sky, a tan ground with rolling hills, and two green trees with brown trunks. One tree is on the left side, partially behind the sign, and the other is on the right side.