

## Grandmother's House

1 I pass the bedroom where I had always slept during my visits here. Grandma would often leave small gifts on my bed for me, sometimes a pack of my favorite crackers or an action figure from the latest superhero movie.

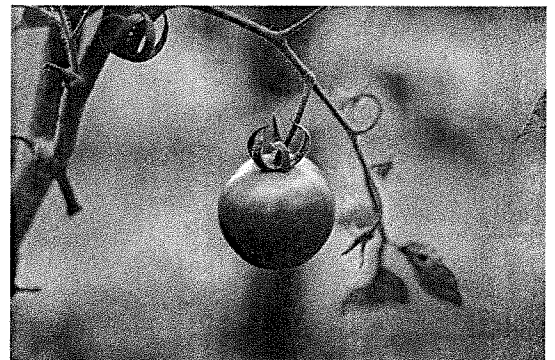
2 To say that I miss her would be an understatement. I want desperately to be able to spend just one day, even one hour, mixing up recipes in the kitchen with her or helping her in her prized garden, where she grew some of the largest vegetables I'd ever seen.

3 Grandma loved her garden and instilled in me a fondness for growing things, too. In fact, I have a small indoor herb garden inside my apartment, though I hope to one day cultivate a full-sized garden like Grandmother's when I purchase my first home. I close my eyes and picture Grandmother teaching me how to differentiate between the weeds and the "good plants", as she called them. There were a couple times when I accidentally pulled one of those good plants instead of a weed, but Grandmother never seemed annoyed. She would simply remind me that mistakes are a necessary part of learning.

4 My mind returns to one time in particular when I was helping Grandmother pick thick and ripe tomatoes straight off the vine. We had quite the collection of tomatoes piled up on the ground beside where we were working when I suddenly lost my balance and sprawled backwards, straight onto the pile of very smash-able red tomatoes. Unfortunately, with my light-colored shorts on, the red stain of a dozen smashed tomatoes never did fully come out in the wash. And the way that Grandma covered her mouth to hide her grin at the sight of my red behind never left my memory, either.

5 I sit on her checkered couch, remembering. This couch is so old—probably even older than I am—but, to me, it is a comfort. There are small stains all over it, but Grandma never minded them. In some ways, they served to make the couch even more special to her, as she would tell me the stories of how each stain originated. One of them had even come from me as a toddler, she said, when I'd spilled my grape juice on the armrest. As the story went, she was able to get most of the stain out of the couch, but the faintest of outlines still remained.

6 Tomorrow, an estate sale will clear Grandmother's home of many of its treasures, and the house itself will soon go on the market. Still, the memories tied to each of these treasures will never leave my mind or my heart, not even when the house belongs to someone new. I will think of Grandma anytime that I see a ripe vegetable or a checkered couch or a warm smile. In this way, I know that she will live on in my heart.



**"Grandmother's House" Multiple-Choice Questions—Page 1**

**I. Part A: Which of the following tells the overall tone of the passage?**

- A. sympathetic**
- B. confident**
- C. gloomy**
- D. reflective**

**Part B: Which two lines from the passage BEST support the tone in Part A?**

- A. "To say that I miss her would be an understatement." (Paragraph 2)**
- B. "I want desperately to be able to spend just one day, even one hour...with her..." (Paragraph 2)**
- C. "...I hope to one day cultivate a full-sized garden like Grandmother's when I purchase my first home." (Paragraph 3)**
- D. "My mind returns to one time in particular when I was helping Grandmother pick thick and ripe tomatoes..." (Paragraph 4)**
- E. "I sit on her checkered couch, remembering." (Paragraph 5)**
- F. "...an estate sale will soon clear Grandmother's home of many of its treasures..." (Paragraph 6)**

**2. How does the language of Paragraph 4 contribute to the tone of the passage? Two answers are required.**

- A. It stresses a serious tone.**
- B. It introduces a humorous tone.**
- C. It emphasizes a reassuring tone.**
- D. It adds a lighthearted tone.**
- E. It creates a sarcastic tone.**
- F. It stresses a dramatic tone.**

**"Grandmother's House" Multiple-Choice Questions—Page 2**

3. Reread the following sentence from Paragraph 2:

"I want desperately to be able to spend just one day, even one hour...helping her in her prized garden, where she grew some of the largest vegetables I'd ever seen."

What is the impact of the word "prized" on the meaning of the passage?

- A. It suggests that the grandmother finds great satisfaction in her garden.
- B. It implies that the grandmother hopes the narrator will take an interest in gardening.
- C. It suggests that the grandmother is a gardening expert.
- D. It implies that the grandmother has earned awards for her garden.

4. What is the mood of the passage? How does the passage make YOU feel?

TEA Statement

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## "Grandmother's House" Short-Response Questions

1. Part A: What is the overall tone of the passage?

Part B: Name a line from the passage that supports the tone in Part A.

2. How does the language of Paragraph 4 contribute to the tone of the passage?

3. Reread the following sentence from Paragraph 2:

"I want desperately to be able to spend just one day, even one hour...helping her in her prized garden, where she grew some of the largest vegetables I'd ever seen."

What is the impact of the word "prized" on the meaning of the passage?

*(Think: What does it tell you about what the garden meant to the grandmother?)*

4. What is the mood of the passage? How does the passage make YOU feel?

TEA Statement