

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Narrative Anchor

### George's Weird Night

George was a hard-working landscaper from California and a good man. He had just moved into a spacious, 3-bedroom apartment with his cat and his seven-year-old daughter, Caroline. For the last three days and nights they had been diligently rummaging through boxes and suitcases. "This place is a mess, I can't wait until we are finished unpacking, daddy." "I know how you feel Caroline, but just think about how much more space we have compared to the cramped 1-bedroom we used to live in." He cared so much for his daughter and just wanted the best for her.

One hot summer night after a long day of landscaping, George walked into the cluttered living room, weary after tucking Caroline into her bed. As he walked through the doorway, he heard a scratching noise and saw a lump in the rug. He was too tired to tell immediately if it was moving or not, but as he watched, he saw it wriggle over to the lamp and knock it over with a crash.

"Daddy, what was that noise?" Caroline asked walking into the living room rubbing her eyes. "I don't know," George replied. "Go back to bed." His first thought was to go get a chair and hit it, so he quickly grabbed a chair from the kitchen and raised it over his head. "Bam!" the chair hit the floor, missing the lump. Then he heard a noise from under the carpet. "What was that?" he thought to himself. He raised the chair again and smashed it into the floor, breaking one of the chair legs. At that point, all was silent so he figured that whatever it was, it must be dead. As he

started walking back to his room he heard a dull thud. The lump had moved towards the TV stand and bumped into it.

Frustrated, George grabbed the chair again and clubbed the lump once more. This time he heard his daughter shout, “Daddy, stop being so loud! I can’t sleep!” Then he heard his neighbor, Mr. Glockenberg, who was always awake at odd hours, shouted, “Stop banging the floor you lunatic!” George froze. In the midst of the yelling, he heard a quiet meow from under the carpet.

“Snowball?” he asked and heard another meow. Then George’s cat, Snowball, struggled out from under the rug. George bent down to pet his cat, “Poor kitty,” he said. He was exhausted but relieved that he hadn’t seriously hurt the family pet, so he headed off to bed. As he pulled his covers up to his chin, George heard a scratching on the floor. Snowball was crawling back under the rug just as the exhausted George and Caroline were drifting off to sleep. Everyone, it seemed, was getting used to the new home.

## Annotations

- **Engagement of the reader:** Writer establishes a context with point of view and introduces a relevant narrator and characters.
  - Narrator has a clear point of view. Characters and context are introduced effectively.
    - And a good man
    - He cared so much for his daughter and just wanted the best for her.
    - He was too tired to tell immediately if it was moving or not.
- **Sequence and Transitions:** Appropriate transitions guide the reader and show relationships among events.
  - Later events build upon earlier ones. Events progress in a natural and logical way, but are not related thematically.
    - Hard-working landscaper
    - Weary after tucking Caroline into bed

- He was exhausted but relieved
- **Plot:** Precise words and relevant details convey events and capture the action.
  - Descriptive dialogue. Precise descriptive words. Details capture action.
    - Knocked it over with a crash
    - He quickly grabbed a chair from the kitchen.
    - “Bam!” the chair hit the floor, missing the lump.
- **Conclusion:** Conclusion follows from the narrated events.
  - Story is clearly over, and conclusion reflects on narrated experiences.
    - Snowball was crawling back under the rug just as the exhausted George and Caroline were drifting off to sleep.
    - Everyone, it seemed, was getting used to the new home.