

Costumes and Photographs

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Robert was a photographer. He liked to take pictures of nature, of great architecture, of historical things, and even of people. His job meant that he had to take a lot of pictures of people, though. That was, unfortunately, where money was made. So, he took lots of pictures of people, but went out on weekends and evenings to take pictures of what *he* wanted to photograph. One day, a young girl named Chelsea started to change his mind, though.

Chelsea was 10. She was a ham. No, she wasn't a piece of meat – she was just silly and funny. He met her one day in the photo studio when she came in with her family for a family portrait. Family portraits were almost as annoying as baby photos. There was always one weird kid that stared at the wall, an awkward teenager that hid behind their hair and stared at the floor, an uncle that didn't wear proper clothes for a family photo, or a strange grandma with hair that leaned in such a way that it was hard to photograph in a flattering fashion. Chelsea's family was not like that.

Chelsea's family was picture perfect. Mom and dad were above-average looking, well-dressed, and could pose without ruining the shot. The little boy was polite, well-behaved, and smiled like a champ. The girl was different. She was cute, but silly. She knew exactly how to strike a pose that was funny without ruining the picture. They were a great family as a whole.

After they finished their photo shoot and started choosing the pictures the family like, Robert wondered if he could get Chelsea to do more photos. She was the kind of kid whose picture they loved to put up on the walls to show the character and quality of photos the studio could take. Robert asked the family if they minded, and they deferred to Chelsea, since she'd have to sit in the pictures.

Chelsea agreed with a grin, but with one condition: she had to choose costumes from their selection of props. Robert agreed, laughing. Chelsea disappeared with one of the studio assistants, only to come back dressed like a bride. Robert took several great photos, and Chelsea disappeared again.

This time, she came back looking like a mummy. They took some silly Halloween shots that had the whole family laughing. The third costume change switched Chelsea into a teddy bear, which she performed in a very realistic fashion, making scary faces and pretending to climb the fake trees in the corner of the shop.

Robert, Chelsea, and Chelsea's family had such a good time that they made it a regular thing. Whenever Robert was feeling down about his photography, Chelsea would come in to take silly pictures and cheer him up. In return for her photo shoots, Chelsea and her family got free pictures printed to hang on their walls.

In the end, Robert became great friends with Chelsea's family, and since he had a daughter of his own only a year or two younger, the two became best friends.



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is Robert's job?
 - A. He's a photographer.
 - B. He's a movie star.
 - C. He doesn't have a job, but he takes pictures as a hobby.
 - D. He's a painter.
2. What sort of photos bore Robert?
 - A. nature pictures
 - B. historical pictures
 - C. architectural pictures
 - D. family pictures
3. Who comes along and changes Robert's opinion on family pictures?
 - A. Ciara
 - B. Chelsea
 - C. Cherrie
 - D. Cherise
4. What do Chelsea and her family get out of the extra photo shoots?
 - A. A way to waste time
 - B. Free photos
 - C. Money
 - D. Nothing
5. Which of these is NOT a way Robert benefits from the arrangement?
 - A. He is motivated and happier about his job.
 - B. His daughter also made a friend.
 - C. He gets money.
 - D. His studio gets nice pictures as advertisements.

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