

## Fresh Paint

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Olivia looked at her new room's dingy white walls. "They're so plain."

"Don't worry," Dad said, "we'll paint them, and you can even choose the color."

Moving into a new house was exciting, but painting the walls any color she chose was even more exciting!

"Do you want pink?" Mom suggested.

Olivia shook her head. "No, that's for babies."

"I want pink for my room!" Olivia's younger sister, Veronica, shouted. She was only four, so she could have pink if she wanted. Olivia wanted another color though.

"What should I choose?" Olivia wondered. "I like sunsets and daisies, so maybe yellow or orange."

"How about both?" Dad offered. "We could paint all the walls one color, and put a similar color on the last wall for an accent. I saw it on TV once. You could have three walls painted light yellow, and one wall painted tangerine orange."

Olivia's eyes nearly popped from her head. "That would be amazing. Let's get painting!"

Sadly, it took a rather dull trip to the home improvement store to pick up some paint, rollers, and brushes before they could begin. Looking at all the color swatches was interesting, and so was watching the paint can shaker machine, but the rest of it was boring. She really just wanted to throw paint on the walls and move into her room.

Back at home, Mom and Veronica unpacked things while Olivia and Dad painted.

It was hard work, especially since she couldn't reach very high. She wasn't very good at detail work around edges and windows, either. Dad helped her a lot. He even smoothed out areas where her paint wasn't completely even. He was a really good painter!

"How did you get so good at painting?" She asked him.

"I painted my parent's house, my friend's house, my old apartment, and now this house! Practice makes perfect."

"You're tall, too."

"That does help." Dad agreed, finishing up edges. "It's always important to take your time to do any job right. You have to live with these colors for a few years, so do it right."



"I understand." She replied, and she did, too. Somehow, doing her own room the right way made her very serious about painting. It was hard to wait until the next day to see the paint all dry so she could move into her room.

There was nothing more satisfying than a job well done. Moving into her new room with its new paint was just about the best thing she could ever remember.

Even when they did Veronica's room next, she tried her hardest to make her sister's room look as good as hers did. Veronica might be younger than her, but she realized it might be just as important to her sister as it was to her for her room to look good.



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

1. What has Olivia's family just done at the beginning of the story?
  - A. They've sold their house.
  - B. They've moved into a new house.
  - C. They've just bought a car.
  - D. They've just went shopping.
  
2. What color does Mom suggest for Olivia's room?
  - A. Red
  - B. Blue
  - C. Pink
  - D. White
  
3. What two colors does Olivia end up with for her room?
  - A. yellow and green
  - B. white and yellow
  - C. orange and white
  - D. yellow and orange
  
4. What lesson does Dad teach Olivia when they are painting?
  - A. Do a job right.
  - B. Don't drip paint on carpet!
  - C. Always paint well.
  - D. Painting is boring.
  
5. How does Olivia feel about painting her sister's room?
  - A. She hates it.
  - B. She thinks it's boring.
  - C. She wants to do it well.
  - D. She doesn't care about it.

## Fresh Paint – Answer Key

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