

# A boy and a chair

There lived a boy in a small village. He is loved and adored by everyone around him. He plays in the small open alley at the middle of the village. There is a clean wooden chair at the center of the clearing. The boy's grandfather would tell stories to the children. He would sit in the wooden chair and read from an ancient book. The boy loved all the stories he told.

Some time passed. One day, the boy's grandmother didn't wake up. Some of the people in the valley carried her away. They returned later without her body. The boy's grandfather stopped reading the stories to the boy. So, the boy took the ancient book and read it himself on the chair.

The boy is older now. He is busier than before. He goes away everyday to learn things. He read the book only on the days he didn't go. However, those days were decreasing too. He had a lot of chores to do, like taking care of his withered grandfather.

It was when the boy finally got another chance to read the ancient book again. Some people came in the town. They carried large guns and walked in a tight uniform. They discussed something with the villagers. They started coming back every month.

The boy is no longer cared for like before. He doesn't read the ancient book at all. He now goes off to work in a near by city. The chair is old and dusty. Its legs are rusty and weak. And the soldiers continue to come, only now they come everyday.

The boy is getting older. He is a man now. He left the village 13 years ago and moved to another country to a new job. He has a better house now and he is making lots of money. He completely forgot his ancient book he left at the village.

On a weekend, the boy is watching a television set. A man wearing a suit reports of a war hitting a neighboring country. The boy remembers the village he grew up in is in there. The set showed bombings and people shooting each other. The man says something else but the boy turns off the television. He lies down on his bed to relax. He has a better life here now.

The boy just purchased new glasses. His vision is failing him and his job gets harder every day. He is almost 55 years old, he realizes. On the television set, the war is getting worse. He starts to miss the village.

It was a cold stormy night. It was late, but the boy was busy packing his bags. His boss told him to leave and get a break. This was his last stay at the country and he had no where to go. He decides that he will return to his old village. He hopes that the war is over now.

The village is empty. The alley is filled with unwelcome weeds and mold. The houses are crumbling and rotting. But the boy finds it. Despite his disabled vision, he spots the old rusty chair and the ancient book still on top of it. The boy hobbles towards the chair and sits down with the ancient book. He is tired and all he wants to do is to reread all the stories from the ancient book.

The End