



The Change in Little Yellow House

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*Parable, or a short narrative
using personification to illustrate
a moral and religious point.*

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It was a bright, sunny day in the little town of Oak Grove. This was a friendly little town. Even the houses were friendly. The houses had gotten together for a little chat.



“Hello, Big Brick House, you surely seem to be happy today,” said the White Church House with the tall steeple.



“I am happy!” answered the Big Brick House, with bright eyes. “I like having the Rose family with me. They are a big family. There are seven children in the family.”

“Seven children!” exclaimed one of the other houses. “My, but you must see a lot of fighting, don’t you?”

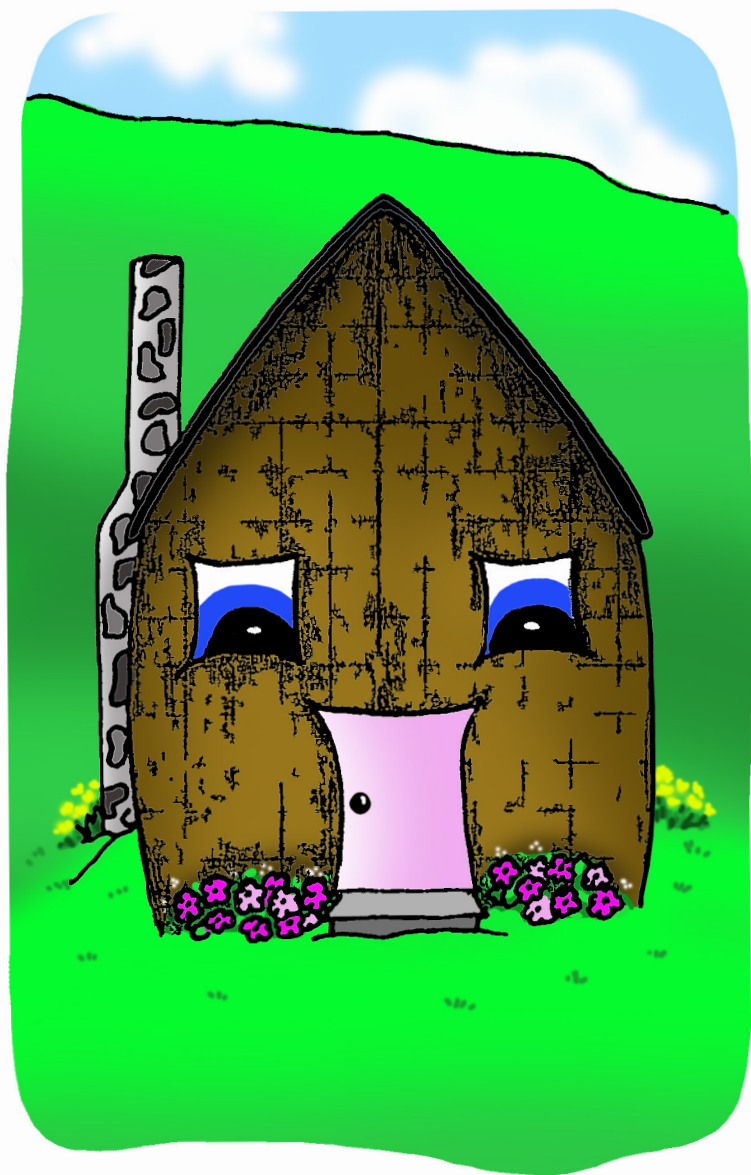
“Oh, no!” said Big Brick House. “The children are very kind to each other. My walls can hardly hold the joy and laughter of the Roses.”



"Do the other children treat lame Tim well?" one of the houses asked.

"Yes," replied Big Brick House. "The children are all very good to Tim. Susie often sits and reads to him from her story-books. Sometimes Susie plays a game with him. Bobby pushes Tim in his wheelchair through the yard every day. The boys throw bread crumbs to the birds. The birds sing to Tim. Everyone likes to help Tim," said Big Brick House, as she smiled at the other houses. "Yes, the Roses are a very happy family. They make me happy, too!"

"I am glad the Rose children are so kind," said the White Church House.



"Hi there, Little Brown House, how are you today?" asked White Church House gayly, looking at the Little Brown House with the tall chimney.

"I am very happy," answered Little Brown House with a smile. "My owner, Mrs. Tibbs, is very kind to me. Do you see these pretty pink flowers she planted at my doorstep? They smell so nice. And Mrs. Tibbs makes lots of other nice smells. She bakes lots of cookies and cakes."

"What does Mrs. Tibbs do with lots of cookies and cakes?" asked one of the houses. "Does she not live alone?"

"Yes, she lives alone. But she gives the cookies and cakes to her friends and to little children who do not have any cookies or cakes. She also gives apples and oranges to people who are sick," said Little Brown House. "Mrs. Tibbs is a Christian. She likes to help other people."

"You must be glad to have Mrs. Tibbs with you, Little Brown House," said the White Church House. "She must be very nice."



White Church House looked over at Little Yellow House who was hiding under a big oak tree.

“Little Yellow House, you have not told us how you like the Thorn family,” said White Church House. All the other houses looked at Little Yellow House.

Little Yellow House had closed her shutters, hoping the other houses would not see the tears in her eyes. Now she looked up sadly.



"Well," said Little Yellow House, in a low voice, "I do not have so good a time as you other houses."

"What is the trouble?" the Big Brick House asked.

"I have lots of aches and pains," said Little Yellow House sadly. "I have a bad bruise on my back. Yesterday Billy threw a baseball bat at Terry. The bat did not hit Terry. He jumped out of the way, but the bat hit me."



“O-o-oh!” said the other houses with eyes wide with surprise.

“Also, my walls are very dirty,” said Little Yellow House. “Billy and Terry have marked on my walls with their crayons.”

“What bad boys!” exclaimed the Little Brown House. “What other bad things do they do?”



Little Yellow House answered with a quiver in her voice, "Terry got a knife for his birthday. Now I have many slashes along my walls." A tear slipped from her eyes. All the other houses felt sorry for Little Yellow House.

"Why do Mr. and Mrs. Thorn not put a stop to all this meanness?" the Big Brick House asked.

"Oh, they are almost as bad as the children," Little Yellow House told them. "They yell at the children and also at each other. They often call each other names." Little Yellow House tried to hide her tears, as she again hid under the big oak tree.



All the other houses looked at the sad Little Yellow House. Then they looked at each other.

“Something should be done about this,” spoke up Big Brick House in a loud voice.

“Yes,” they all agreed, “but what?”



“Little Yellow House,” said the Church House in a kind voice. “I think that God can help the Thorn family. Next week a preacher from Hilltop is coming to hold a meeting. There will be a meeting every night. A lot of people here in Oak Grove will come to the meeting. Maybe the Thorns will come and get saved.”

Little Yellow House looked up hopefully. “Do you think that might really happen?” Little Yellow House could hardly wait for the next week to come.



The next week the meeting started in the White Church House. All the people in Oak Grove came to the meeting. Mrs. Tibbs came. Mr. and Mrs. Rose and all the little Roses came. Yes, even the Thorns came to the meeting.

The people in the White Church House sang songs. The mothers and daddies sang. The boys and girls sang. They sang, "What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear . . ." The people in Oak Grove liked to sing. The houses in Oak Grove liked to hear the people sing.



The people in the White Church House stopped singing. Everyone was quiet while the preacher talked to them about God. The big people were quiet. The little people were quiet, too. The people liked to hear about God.

The Thorns went to the meeting the first two nights, but they acted as badly as ever at home. Little Yellow House began to think that the meeting would not help them.

On the third night, Little Yellow House was surprised when the Thorn family came home. They were not as noisy as usual. They looked like they had been crying. At first Little Yellow House thought that one of their friends had died. But they all looked happy, even though their eyes were red from crying. Little Yellow House did not know what had happened.

The family sat down in the living room. Mr. Thorn took a black Book from the shelf. The Book was far back on the shelf. It was a book that Little Yellow House had never seen. The word *Bible* was on the front of the Book.

Mr. Thorn read from the Book while everyone sat quietly. Mr. Thorn then laid the Book down. Everyone in the family knelt down and prayed. Even Billy and Terry prayed. Little Yellow House could hardly believe this to be true! She began to smile, and her eyes shined brightly in the dark night.

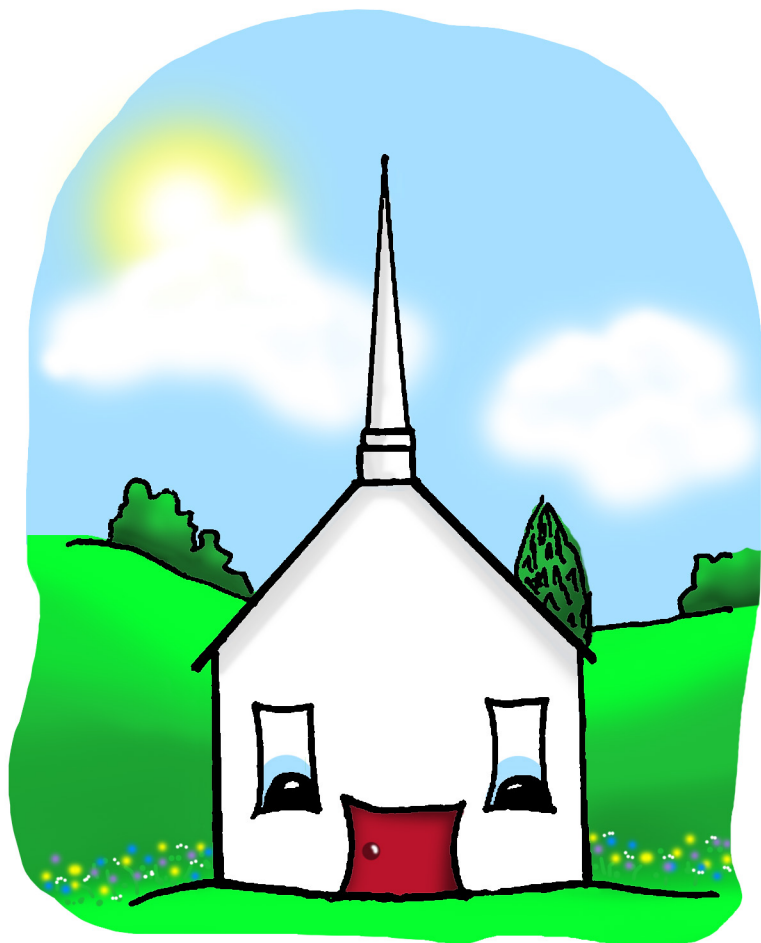




Each day after this, the family read from the Book. Every day the family prayed together. The Little Yellow House smiled and opened her shutters.

There was a big change in the way the Thorn family acted. They no longer yelled at each other or called each other names. They talked kindly to one another. There was often sweet singing heard within the walls of Little Yellow House.

Billy and Terry no longer did mean things. They never slashed the walls or colored on them. They even helped put a new coat of blue paint on their bedroom walls. They were careful not to tear things up. Billy and Terry helped their mother wash the windows. Little Yellow House knew that Billy and Terry would not hurt her now.



Every week the people in Oak Grove went to the White Church House. The White Church House smiled and opened her doors wide when she saw all the Thorn family coming. They wanted to learn more about God. They liked to sing to God.



All the houses in Oak Grove were now happy. Little Yellow House looked like a new house. She was no longer sad. She no longer closed her shutters or tried to hide under the oak tree. Little Yellow House smiled at all the other houses in Oak Grove. The other houses were all happy for Little Yellow House. They smiled, too.

Questions

1. What town did Little Yellow House live in?
2. How did the Rose family treat lame Tim?
3. Was the Rose family happy?
4. Why does the brown house where Mrs. Tibbs lives smell so good?
5. What does Mrs. Tibbs do with all the cakes and cookies she makes?
6. Why does Mrs. Tibbs like to help other people?
7. Which house was hiding under the big oak tree looking sad?
8. Why did the Little Yellow House have aches and pains?
9. What family lived in the Little Yellow House?
10. Were they happy? Why or why not?
11. What was the special event that took place in Oak Grove?
12. Did the Thorn family change the first time they came to church?
13. What happened on the third night of the meeting?
14. What was the little Black book that the Thorn family read when they went home?
15. How did Little Yellow House know the family had changed?
16. Why did all of the families in Oak Grove go to church every Sunday?

Answers

- 1. Oak Grove**
- 2. They help him by reading stories, playing games, pushing his wheelchair.**
- 3. Yes, they were happy and kind.**
- 4. Mrs. Tibbs planted pretty, pink flowers and bakes cakes and cookies.**
- 5. She gives them to her friends and children.**
- 6. Because she is a Christian**
- 7. Little Yellow House**
- 8. The Thorn Family**
- 9. They were not happy. They were angry and fought because they were not saved.**
- 10. A preacher from Hilltop was coming to hold a meeting every night for a week.**
- 11. No. They still acted badly to each other.**
- 12. The Thorn family got saved.**
- 13. The Bible**
- 14. The family did not yell or fight and they began to take care of Little Yellow House.**
- 15. They wanted to learn more about God and they liked to sing to God.**

