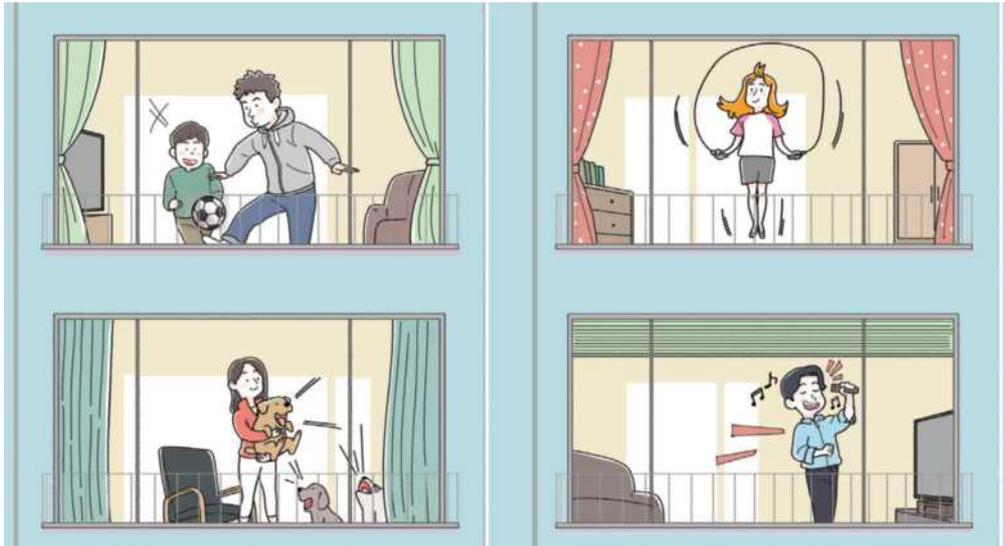




## Before Reading

- A. Look at the picture. What problems would you have if you lived here?  
Talk with your classmates.



- B. Look at the pictures. Guess the meanings of the underlined words and share your ideas with your partner.



It was inconsiderate of you to take a seat and let the old person stand.



She thought the price of the bag was reasonable, so she bought it.



They planted the trees in cooperation with each other.



As the food ran out and the water ran low, he became desperate.



Mr. Brown decided to replace the old tires with new ones.



**Guide** As you read the story, think about what we should do to be good neighbors.



# A Noisy Neighbor

I was resting on my couch after a long day. Helping needy people all day is not easy, but it gives me joy.

Suddenly, the terrible noise from the apartment above started again. I had heard that some thoughtless, 5  
inconsiderate mothers let their children ride bicycles and skateboards inside their homes these days, and I imagined what was going on up there. I picked up the intercom to call the apartment manager again.

“May I help you?” he said. His voice seemed 10  
impatient. “Is this about the noise upstairs again?”

Do you want me to tell her to be quiet?” I hung up and waited.

In a moment, my intercom rang, and the apartment manager said, “The woman upstairs says 15  
she’s being very careful about the noise, and she says she’s sorry.” He hung up.

## While-Reading Questions

**Q1** Why did the writer call the apartment manager?

**my Opinion** **Q2** Have you ever had a problem with your neighbors?

L1 couch [kaʊtʃ] L2 needy [ni:di] L5 thoughtless [θɔ:tʌlɪs] L6 inconsiderate [ɪnkənsɪdərət]

L9 intercom [ɪntərˈkɒm] L11 impatient [ɪmˈpeɪʃənt] L14 in a moment

## My Word List



Sorry? Wasn't the annoying sound the same as before, and why was she being so inconsiderate?

20 Since I was determined to end the matter once and for all, I grabbed the intercom again and asked him to connect me to Apartment 909.

After many rings, a young woman's voice answered. I spoke strongly, "Listen, I live  
25 downstairs — unfortunately right below *you* — and I've had just about enough of your rudeness. There

are do's and don'ts when we live in an apartment, aren't there? The noise from your apartment has pushed me to the point where I'm almost ill."

"Look," responded the young woman, "if I had had the ability myself, I'd have  
30 been quieter. Can't I just move around normally in my own home? You've gone way too far with this, and I'm becoming nervous since you complain almost every day." Her voice became desperate. "What do you want me to do?"

35 I stood up a little straighter, and I held the intercom even more tightly. I made my voice calm and polite. "I want what any reasonable person would want," I said. "For you to be understanding and considerate. I  
40 wish you'd been quieter, that's all."



**Q3** What does the writer think of the woman upstairs?



**Q4** What are some do's and don'ts for being a good neighbor?

[My Word List](#)

L18 annoying [ə'nɔɪɪŋ] L20 determined [dɪ'tɜːrɪnd] L20 once and for all L21 grab [græb]  
L26 rudeness [rúːdnɪs] L30 way too far L33 desperate [dɛ'spɜːrət] L36 tightly [táitli]  
L38 reasonable [rɪːzənəbl] L39 considerate [kən'sɪdərət]



I firmly put the phone down. How shameless! I couldn't stop thinking about her rudeness. Yet the wisdom that comes with age told me that the angrier I became, the more I needed to calm myself down and act carefully. Suddenly, I remembered a pair of slippers that I had received as a present but had not used. 45

A present can be a good way to communicate. The slippers could represent my suffering and at the same time serve as a constant reminder to soften the sound of her steps. I'd teach her in this quiet way how to live with others as a considerate neighbor. 50

I placed the slippers in an almost new gift bag and added a small, used ribbon. Then I walked upstairs and rang the bell. No one answered. I could hear someone inside, so I waited. With her cooperation, I'd have already delivered the gift along with a kind greeting such as, 55  
"We're neighbors, but we haven't exchanged hellos yet ...."  
But now I was being made to wait.

### Core Skill

► To better understand a story, visualize what the characters are doing and saying and how they might feel.

**Q5** What did the writer bring upstairs?

L41 firmly [fɛːrmlɪ] L41 shameless [ʃeɪmlɪs] L44 a pair of L47 represent [rɛprɪzɛnt]

L47 suffering [sʌfərɪŋ] L48 reminder [rɪmáɪndər] L48 soften [sɔːfən]

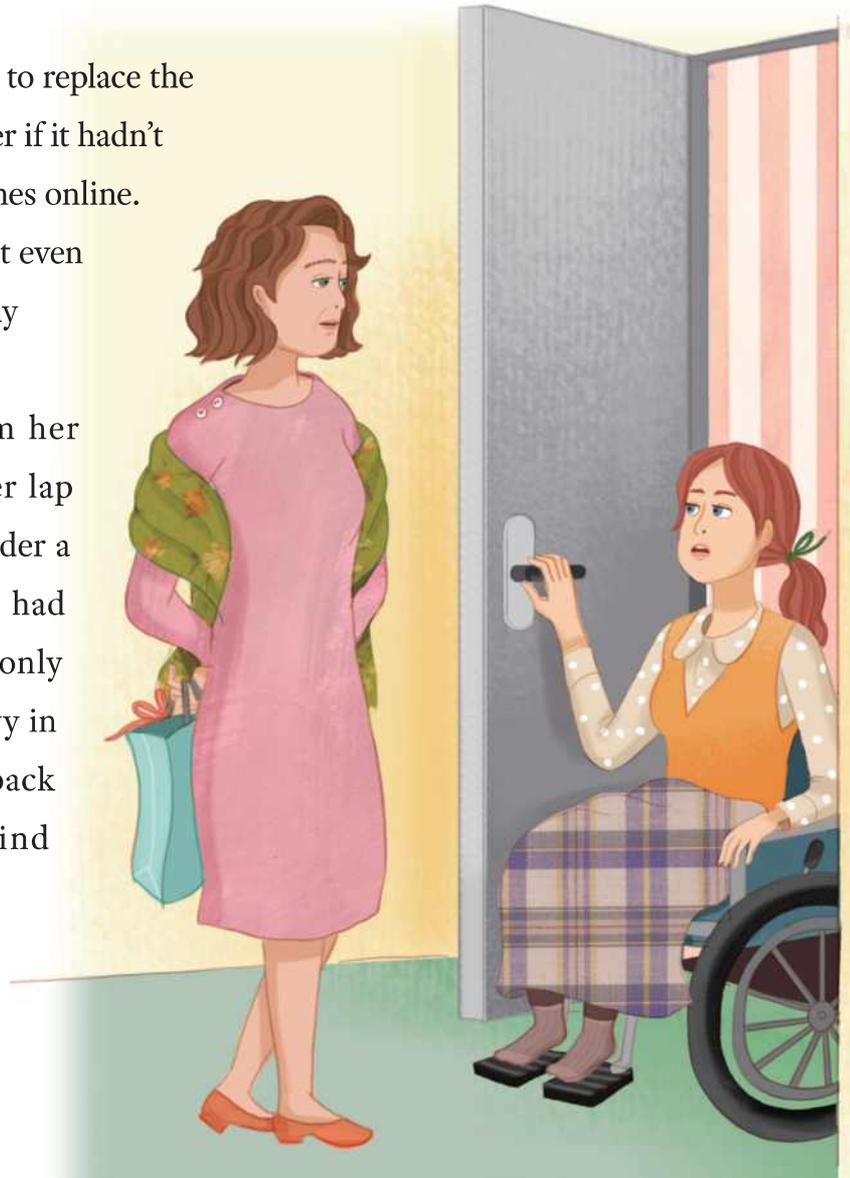
L54 cooperation [kouəpəreɪʃən] L55 greeting [grɪːtɪŋ]

[My Word List](#)

Finally, the noise became louder as it approached the door. The lock turned once halfway, then again completely, and the door slowly opened. A young lady looked up at me from the doorway. She was seated in a big, metal wheelchair. Far from angry, her face looked tired and worn, and I hid the slippers behind me as quickly and naturally as I could.

“Actually, I was just about to replace the wheels. I’d have done it earlier if it hadn’t taken so long to order new ones online. Anyway, I’m sorry, and I can’t even offer you some tea because my helper isn’t here right now.”

My eyes ran away from her face and fell instead on her lap and then her legs resting under a colorful blanket. The noise had ended, and now there was only silence. My slippers felt heavy in the cheap bag as I looked back at her face and tried to find something to say.



Adapted from <소음 공해>, 오정희, 1993

**Q6** Check T (true) or F (false).

T F

The writer gave a pair of slippers to the woman upstairs.



**Q7** Why did the writer say nothing after seeing the woman upstairs?

L59 halfway [há:fwèi] L60 doorway [dɔ:rwèi] L60 far from L61 worn [wɔ:rn]

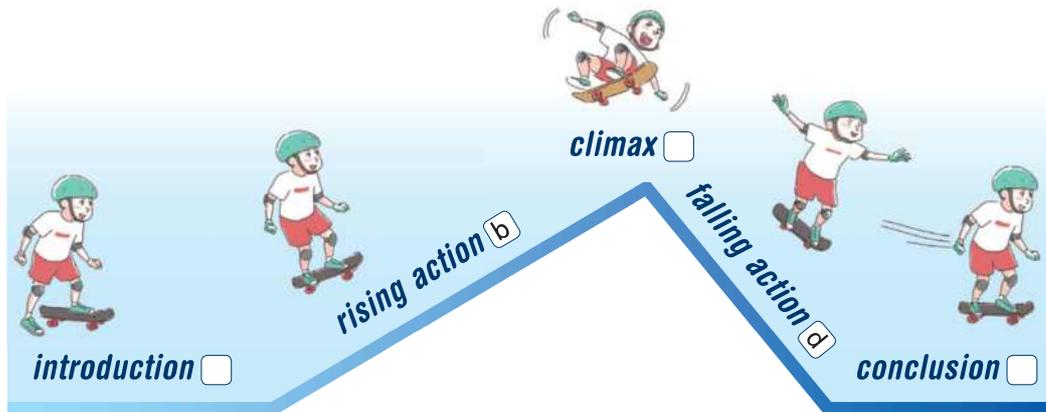
L63 replace [ripléi:s] L69 run away from L72 blanket [blæŋkit] L74 silence [sáiləns]

[My Word List](#)



Read along as you listen and then perform the tasks.

**A. Match the sentences with the correct location on the plot graph.**



- The noise ended and then there was only silence between the two women.
- WD called WU to talk about the noise. WD became angrier because of WU's response and went upstairs with the slippers as a present.
- The annoying noise upstairs started again and WD got upset.
- WU explained why she could not replace the wheels and apologized.
- When the door opened, WD found out what had caused the noise and hid the slippers.

▶WD: the woman downstairs ▶WU: the woman upstairs



**B. Discuss the questions with your partner.**

- What does the writer want to tell us through the story?
- How do the feelings of the woman downstairs change from the beginning to the end of the story?

**Reflections & Creative Thinking**

What do you think the intercom and the slippers symbolize in the story?



## Burnt Bread

-Former Indian President Dr. Abdul Kalam's Story

One evening my mother prepared dinner for the family after a long, hard day's work. She placed a vegetable dish and burnt bread on the table. I was waiting to see if my father would say something about the burnt bread. To my surprise, my father just enjoyed the bread as usual and asked me how school

5 was.

I do not remember what I told him that night. However, I remember I heard my mother saying sorry to my father for the burnt bread. More importantly, I clearly remember him saying, "Honey, I love burnt bread." Later that night, before I went to bed,

10 I asked my father if he had really liked the burnt bread. He wrapped me in his arms and replied, "Son, your mother put in a long, hard day at work, and she was exhausted. Sometimes we forget that, don't we? Besides, burnt bread never hurts anyone, but harsh words do." I will never forget what he said.



Adapted from Abdul Kalam's *Father's Inspiring Story* (Official Kalam, 2016)

### 1. What is the tone of the writer?

- a. humorous                      b. regretful                      c. thoughtful

### 2. Check T (true) or F (false).

- |  | T                        | F                        |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) The writer's mother was very tired that night. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (2) The writer's father was upset about the food.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



### 3. What lesson did you learn from the story? Talk with your partner.

#### Folder 2



#### Self-Check

- ▶ I can infer the writer's intention.
- ▶ I know how to be considerate in my daily life.



Color the face that matches your feelings.