

English II

Kathy McPherson  
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As the wiry old man lifted each sugar coated flakes of cereal from the oddly shaped wooden bowl, he could hear over the whistling wind, which seeped through needle-thin tunnels made by termites, the creaking and groaning of the ancient house. Suddenly, realizing how cold it had become, he slowly lifted his withered body from the chair to add one of the small pine logs to the dying embers. This done he returned to table and as he ~~sat down~~ lowered himself into the old oak chair he noticed how the hungrily leaping flames of the newly fed ~~first~~ <sup>fire</sup> coals carved weird shadows into the walls and furniture of the breakfast room. Then as if frightened by the sight of the ghost like shadows he shrank further, till it was almost as if he was part of the chair but as he <sup>deeply</sup> inhaled the wonderful smell of burning pine filled his lung and sitting up as if he had gained his courage to live, he once again started the grueling task of feeding each sugar coated flake of cereal to his nearly toothless mouth.

When the last flake had finally disappeared from the well worn bowl he

poured himself a cup of strong black coffee and lifting his tired body from the old chair he walked over to the fire & and settled close by in an old leather bound rocker. He was nearly asleep when scratching at the door reminded him that his <sup>old</sup> lively but every old little Yorkshire terrier had not been let in from its morning walk. But as he was lifting his worn body a sharp pain shot through his crooked back so he decided it wouldn't hurt to leave Rocky out a little longer than usual.

When he finally lifted his tortured body from the rocker to let the small dog in it was well after noon. When he opened the door a small shivering ~~was~~ bundle of fur slipped in and silently to his spot at the foot of the rocker, for it was long ago he had learned that it irritated his beloved master.

After the old man was once again settled in his rocker, he invited the little terror, who had become his so companion. ~~near the end of~~ ~~the day~~ a few minutes later the both fell into a deep peaceful sleep from which neither would ever wake for their ~~soul~~ <sup>lives</sup> had been taken by the divine ruler, God.