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ACCEPTED 5/22/13
SIGNED CONTRACT RECEIVED 6/13/13

Redo - #101 Arizona, Dec 2013, Xmas Collages, 662 Words

Hi Joelle – Here's the redo without collages for T & I. Wondering if since it's shorter than usual we might have room to show off the poem or have separate little pics of the collages or...?

Dear Arizona,

*All the Christmas presents I want to buy for my family are too expensive. Any ideas?
Gift Giver in Galveston*

Dear Gift Giver,

Last weekend when I was smashing cardboard in the garage, my neighbor Ollie came skateboarding by.

"Watcha doin?"

"Recycling," I answered.

"Woah that's a huge pile!" He said. "Need a hand?"

"Sure, thanks!" I said. "So what's going on?"

"I'm mostly stressing out," he said, stepping on a can.

"How come?" I asked.

"Abuela's car keeps breaking down," he said. "And we don't have enough money to get it fixed right now."

"That's such a bummer!" I said.

"I know," he agreed. "I wish I was a zillionaire so I could buy my grandmother a brand new car for Christmas like this one."

He pointed to a picture of a cool, red, convertible car on the cover of the magazine I was about to recycle.

"I know! That would be so awesome!" I said. "My parents are always saying how they'd like to have a bigger house. "If I were a zillionaire I'd buy them a mansion for Christmas like this one." I was holding up a magazine picture of a three-story house on a lake.

"Hey, I just got a possibly decent idea," said Ollie. "It's not anything like the actual thing, but what if when we're done with the recycling, we make collages of what we wish we could give, and have those be our Christmas presents?"

"That's a better than decent idea!" I told him.

As soon as we finished in the garage, we grabbed a bunch of magazines for pictures, and cardboard to put them on, and headed off to the kitchen table for spreading and choosing and cutting and gluing.

The collage I made for my parents had that mansion on the lake picture, and the Eiffel tower in France and the Great Wall in China and a picture of planet earth.

The one Ollie made for Abuela had that red convertible, a gigantic sailboat sailing past a palm tree covered island, and three chickens and a cow.

"I get the car and the boat and the tropical island," I said. "But why would you want to give your grandmother chickens and a cow?"

"Well, she's always said she'd like to live on a farm one day," said Ollie. "Wait! Hold on!"

He put down his glue-stick, picked up a pen, and after a pretty long time of writing and scratching out and writing again, he said, "Okay, read this. It explains the whole collage."

Merry Christmas Abuela, I wished on a star
that I could give you a brand new sports car.
It'd take you wherever you wanted to go,
zipping by super fast, or just cruising slow-mo.

And that's just for starters, the next thing I'd do
is give you a boat - and not just a canoe.
A thirty-foot sail boat would be about right
for seeing the world all day and all night.

And last but not least, I'd give you a farm
With chickens and cows and a nice, cozy barn.
I wish I could give you that stuff right away
But I guess that for now I'll just have to say

If I ever do get a wish that comes true
I promise to give that one wish to you.

"I can't believe you just wrote that whole amazing poem!" I said.

"It's not a poem," said Ollie. "It just explains the picture stuff."

"Well, whatever it is," I said. "It's amazingly cool! Would you be okay with me stealing your idea and writing words to go with my collage?"

“Sure, steal away!” Ollie laughed.

So Dear Gift Giver, we haven’t actually given our recycled Christmas collages and poems yet, so I don’t exactly know what people will think. But I do know they were really fun to make. Oh, and the other good thing – they didn’t cost any money at all!

Ciao for Now,

Arizona

