

GRADES 5-7

"The House that Knows Me"

First Place Winner!

By: Ayla Brikho, Age 11, California, USA

Description: A child doesn't want to move

Genre: Dramatic

I'm not getting in the car. You can put in the suitcases, and you can even take my bed, but I'm staying right here. I am not moving away. Do you know about the loose floorboard that squeaks every time I sneak a snack? The new house won't have that. And what about that crack in the window from where I was throwing rocks? The new people will probably just replace it. What about my best friend who lives three houses down? We have our secret handshake. You can't do a secret handshake over FaceTime. It isn't the same. So go ahead, start the car, but I'm staying here.

1-minute cut • approx. 109 spoken words