The chair that remained

CEFR C2 | Unit 9: Literature | Reading

Read the original text. You may underline evidence and reread as needed.

Name _____ Date _____

ORIGINAL LITERARY EXTRACT

By the time the committee agreed to preserve the room, the room had developed other plans. Rain had taken the minutes. A vine, uninvited but energetic, had reached the chairperson's place.

Mara stood in the doorway with the key that no longer opened anything. She had kept it through three moves, two changes of coat and a period in which she had confidently called the matter resolved. It was a small key. This had made keeping it easier to explain.

Inside, one chair remained upright. The others had surrendered by degrees: a loosened joint, a missing foot, a decision by someone passing to take what could still be used. The upright chair was not the best made. It had simply occupied the driest corner.

Mara brushed a leaf from its seat. For a moment she considered sitting, as though attendance might still be recorded somewhere. Then she put the key in her pocket and left the door open.

A reader could take the final action as release, indecision or a small act of hospitality towards whatever now used the room. The text does not settle the choice. Its comic personifications do not cancel the loss, and the practical explanation of the surviving chair resists an easy moral about deserving endurance. A critical response should connect an interpretation to these details rather than supply a symbolic code in which every object has one fixed meaning.

Original Ilmiya practice text. Scenarios and research examples are fictional.