

The Dollhouse

Trisha loved playing with dolls. Dolls were cute, fun, and fashionable. She had tons of outfits for them. They had dresses, pants, shirts, skirts, and swimsuits for her dolls. She had lots of accessories, too, like hats, necklaces, shoes, and handbags. She also had a couple toys to go with them also, like a car and little pets.

Trisha had played so much with her dolls that, sadly, she was starting to get bored with them. They needed something new to do. What they really needed, she decided, was a house. Doll houses weren't cheap, though, so she was scared to ask her parents for one, especially since neither Christmas nor her birthday were near.

So, she decided to make her own. Cardboard seemed to be the best bet. Wood would be nicer, but she couldn't use dad's saws and tools. They were dangerous, and she didn't want to get in trouble. Scissors and cardboard, she could handle. She started off making a frame for the outside of the house. This seemed easy enough, but once she tried to attach other walls and floors to split the house into rooms, she ran into trouble.

It took several tries before she could make walls and floors that were notched so they interlocked and held each other up. After cutting up a dozen boxes, she had a structure almost as tall as her, with 6 large rooms, a stairwell, and an attic. The problem was that it was very ugly brown or gray cardboard. How boring! It needed a *serious* makeover.

She found scraps of old wallpaper, some tissue paper, and some wrapping paper that she trimmed and pasted into each room. Each room now had different colored walls! With some fabric samples and scraps her mother let her have, she cut carpets for each room, gluing them down. Borrowing furniture from other toy sets, she now had a fully-decorated mansion! It was great!

In fact, her family was so impressed, that they helped her touch up a few things. Mom sewed a few miniature pillows and made her a bed set for her dolls. Even dad, who normally would not touch something as girly as a doll, made a few wooden pieces of furniture and a nicer set of wooden stairs for her house. That was a huge surprise. He made a wooden roof, too!

Trisha had given her dolls something new to play with, and she'd made something, too. It was a great feeling to make something, and it was very fun, too.



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. Trisha's dolls have all of these except what?
 - A. clothes
 - B. accessories
 - C. a car
 - D. a house

2. TRUE OR FALSE: Trisha builds the dollhouse because she wants to impress her parents.
 - A. True
 - B. False

3. Trisha used all of these to build her house except which one?
 - A. cardboard
 - B. miniature lights
 - C. wrapping paper
 - D. fabric scraps

4. When Trisha finishes building the house's frame, what does she notice?
 - A. It's too small.
 - B. It's crooked.
 - C. It's ugly and boring looking.
 - D. It's fantastic.

5. Who surprises Trisha by helping her fix up her house even more?
 - A. Mom
 - B. Dad
 - C. Grandpa
 - D. Her friends

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