



## **8. A House Is Not a Home**

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-ZAN GAUDIOSO

### **Handout-3**

Zan thought that bad news spread faster because everyone, including all the teachers knew about his sad story. He felt embarrassed as if he was guilty for all that had happened. He was getting attention for all the wrong reasons.

The next day at school was unusual. He was changing for the gym class when students gathered around him and asked him to hurry. He was accustomed to strange happenings and so, did not react much. The students pushed him into the gym and he realized the reason when he reached. There was a table full of articles like notebooks, clothes, stationery items. It felt like Christmas time. He got emotional. He made new friends. They invited him to their houses. He was moved by their concern for him. He felt relieved because it was for the first time that he felt something good was happening to him. He made new friends that day.

After a month, he visited his house as it was being rebuilt. He had two friends with him. The incident transformed him. He came out of the negativity and made new friends. He realized that just like his house was being rebuilt, similarly, his life was also being rebuilt.

They sat on the pavement and were planning his new bedroom. Someone walked up to him from behind and asked if the cat that she was holding belonged to him. He grabbed his pet cat, held her close and cried. On union with her master, the cat made a happy sound. His friends shared his happiness and jumped around.

Due to the fire, his pet cat behaved strangely and ran almost a mile away. Although their phone number was written on her collar, but as their phone had been destroyed in the fire, the lady could not contact them. She made efforts to trace their address through the number and thus, reached them. She could make out that the cat was being missed by her master because the cat was also sad and missed him.

When he sat with his cat and his friends, the sadness disappeared. He was happy and thankful for getting a new life which got him new friends, a kind woman who returned his cat and his pet cat. He got a new life.