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Brandon's Books

by Guy Belleranti

Brandon picked up a large red ball off the floor and tossed it toward his bookshelf.

"Ouch!" squeaked a high voice.

"That hurt," groaned a low voice.

Brandon looked around. "Who said that?"

"I did," said the high voice.

"And I," added the low voice.

Brandon craned his head. "Where are you?"

"On the bookshelf," called both voices.



Brandon moved closer. His red ball had landed on top of two books, one thin and one thick.

"That ball almost knocked us off the shelf," rumbled Thick book.

"I'm sorry," Brandon said. Then his brown eyes widened. "Wait! Books can't talk."

"Sure we can," peeped Thin Book. "We have lots of words inside of us."

"But...but..."

"Please be nice and stand us up," Thin Book said.

"And away from the edge, so we won't fall off," Thick Book added.

Brandon rolled the ball to the side. Then he stood both books against the others on the shelf.

"Thank you," said Thin Book. "But could you please put us in order?"

"Order?"

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"Yes. I'm fiction. Look through my pages and you'll see I'm a storybook. Please put me and my storybook friends together."

"And I'm non-fiction," Thick Book said. "Look through my pages and you'll see I'm about animals. Please stand me and my non-fiction friends together."

"Well...." Brandon scratched his head. "That sounds like a lot of work."

"But it will be worth it," said Thin Book.

"Maybe you will appreciate us more," said Thick Book.

Brandon sighed. "Okay."

It was a lot of work. Brandon had a lot of books. But Thin Book and Thick Book helped whenever he had a question, and soon he was finished.

"That's much better," said Thin Book. "I'm happy you left me on the top shelf. That way I can still see far across the room."

"And I'm happy you stood me on the bottom shelf," Thick Book said. "I'm afraid of heights."

Brandon smiled. "I forgot how many good books I had. I need to read some of you again."

And that's just what Brandon did.

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What did Brandon say, when the books asked him to put them back in place? 1) a) He felt it was a waste of time. b) He said it was a lot of work. c) He refused to do so. d) He said he will do it later. What requests did the books make? 2) Write the antonyms for the following. 3) thick high fiction bottom -Who helped Brandon whenever he had a question? 4) Give an alternative title to the story. 5)