Britta took a deep breath. This was a big mess. It might take all day. Britta arranged the boxes that Aunt Val would keep by stacking them against the far wall. Britta smiled, too. She liked old pictures. Britta looked around Aunt Val’s attic. Boxes were piled around the space in heaps. Dust coated the windowsills. Old books, magazines, and toys littered the floor. Aunt Val had asked Britta over to help clean up the attic. When they were done, they were going to have a real tea party, with china teacups and tea cakes. First, she would look around. That would help her decide what to start cleaning first. Then, she would tidy up all the loose ends. Aunt Val started to go through the boxes. She needed to decide what to keep and what to throw away. Britta arranged the boxes that Aunt Val would keep by stacking them against the far wall. “Look at this,” Aunt Val said. She held out an old picture. Britta hurried to her. “This was me and your mom when we were little.” Aunt Val and Mom smiled for the picture while sitting on a giant swing. Britta smiled, too. She liked old pictures. When all the boxes were stacked, Britta sat down on an old rug. She went through a stack of old books.
The Little Mermaid, The Sleeping Princess, and Black Beauty.

These books were classics!

“Would you like to keep those?” Aunt Val asked.

Britta smiled. “Yes, please.” She set aside the books to take home later.

Once all the books were sorted, they arranged them on an old bookshelf. They put all the old toys inside a donation box, and they sorted the old magazines into the recycling bin.

Aunt Val climbed down from the attic ladder. A minute later she returned with a dust rag and mop. Britta dusted the windows while Aunt Val mopped the attic floor.

They surveyed their work. The attic was tidy and spacious.

“It looks a lot better, now,” Britta said.

Aunt Val smiled. “I think so, too. How about that tea party?”

They went downstairs and washed their hands. Aunt Val boiled water for tea, and Britta set out the china teacups.

It had been a great day, and Britta was excited to get home and start on her new books.

Use any four phrasal verbs you underlined in sentences of your own.

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