

# brian's ramblings /3/ different how?

Callie's house is the same kind of bungalow, except that it has yellow-orange aluminum siding. They never have to paint it. Inside, the rooms all fit together the same way the rooms in our house do.

Callie has the bedroom that belongs to Kate in our house. Callie's an only child. It's funny how houses so much alike can feel so different inside. The Clemsons' house always smells like coffee, unlike ours. They make coffee all day long. And they even let Callie drink it. Plus, there's a phone in almost every room. I mean, Callie is actually allowed to make calls from her bedroom. I couldn't believe it when she first told me.

And the furniture in Callie's house looks completely different. We have this real old furniture that my parents got from Grandma. She had been using it to turn her basement into a sort of second living room. So it wasn't even new when my parents got married. They taught themselves how to put new fabric on the sofa. Still, it always looks pretty much the same. Callie's house has brand new furniture. Her mother keeps everything covered in plastic.

As a result of these differences, I never feel quite comfortable in Callie's house. Her mother's always nice to me. She'll yell at Callie for walking in the house without taking her shoes off first, but if I forget to take my shoes off she won't say anything. Unless Callie reminds me, I tend to forget. You don't have to take your shoes off to walk in my house.