Cleaning Up

As Cecilia waited for her dad to take his Mancala turn, she thought about how Grandma could see the mountains from this window when she was a girl. Now, the view was just haze and her grandma was in the hospital really sick.

Doctors thought that her grandma was outside too much and breathed in too many of the nearby factory chemicals. Now that her grandma was not in Cecilia's house, there wasn't nearly as much laughing. Cecilia's grandma always had a joke or interesting story to share. Most of the stories were ones about hiking to glaciers and counting mountain goats in Glacier National Park. Now when Cecilia visited Glacier, all the glaciers were melted, and it would be really lucky just to see one goat.

"Hey, where did you go? It is your turn," Cecilia's dad asked.

She moved her stones, but didn't get very many because her mind wasn't on the game. She was distracted by Fritz's sweeping. Fritz did all the chores her grandma talked about doing every day after school when she was a kid.

"Hey dad, I was thinking about Grandma and all her stories. That got me started on the chemicals that possibly got grandma sick. What if all our neighbors used our Fritz robots to do things like pick up trash, fix chemical pipes, and make sure the air around the factories stays clean. I would not mind sweeping if it meant that Grandma can be outside in the fresh air!"