

This could be good. Starting to downsize is a good feeling.

Already the process seems so easy. Just take the basket of children's books and check over each one, putting each into a pile of Keep or of Donate. Done! So, the process turns into progress. All six books from the 16 treasures are sanitized and each placed inside a plastic bag. The bundle is put in a box and then set outdoors on the sidewalk so that passersby can browse, just like in a library, but take for keeps. Again, Done!

Downsizing feels so powerful.

Taking out all the toast crumbs from the toaster is next. Emptying the vacuum cleaner bag could be a beginning. Or is that cleaning? The word is downsizing in my book.

Really, downsizing is a huge deal. It means giving your treasures to other people so that they, too, can enjoy the smiles, the tenderness, and the surge of adventure already experienced. The Oxford Desk dictionary explains that downsizing is to "reduce in size". That could mean to lose weight, to lose personnel, and, perhaps, to clean up toast crumbs. Mostly, though, (for the "little old lady" in the Babar children's books) downsizing means giving the tablecloths that need ironing to offspring who don't own an iron. Or it means to give away the chaffing dish that could do with an application of silver polish. And it means gifting the "gold" silverware to newlyweds who don't have a table.

Luckily, we thrive on the old-fashion garage sales where strangers come to call and pick through the discarded delectable choices which we find most difficult to release hold.

Of course, there is the "Donation Stores" that happily take them allowing personnel (that have not been downsized) to sort through and find "Antique Roadshow" treasures. Some may bring cash for a term of college tuition.

Downsizing may be at our doorstep. The doorbell is ringing signaling time to search underneath the bed for the stash of forgotten fabric. Or telling us to sort through holiday decorations for the "giveaway pile". It could be a beginning. Afterall, Christmas is only 5 months away. The bell tolls for you!

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