

Wardrobe or Closet?

Revised selection – original text by Anna Waszcuk, Shoreview
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Pre-reading

Questions:

- What is a wardrobe?
- Where would you find one?

Definitions:

- Bare – not filled or covered; empty
- Convenient – easily used for someone's needs or purposes; useful
- Practical – able to be used; useful



Reading

Foreigners have to get used to a lot of different things in America. One thing is closets.

17 Each bedroom in America has a huge closet. It is not movable, and it takes up a lot of space.

37 Some closets do not have doors. You cannot tightly close these closets, so dust gets in them easily.

55 People **store** more than just clothes in closets. They store things like toys, seasonal items,
70 and even shoes. People from Poland do not store shoes in a closet. We believe shoes are dirty and
89 do not smell nice.

93 Instead of closets, we have wardrobes in Poland. When you move into a house, there are
109 four bare walls in the bedrooms. You buy your own wardrobe in whatever design and size you
126 like. You can place it wherever you want. You do not have to have a wardrobe in a bedroom.

145 The word “closet” is an odd word for us because “closet” in Polish means toilet. It feels
162 strange for us to say, “Put your clothes in the closet,” or “Your coat is in the closet.” There have
182 been many misunderstandings and funny situations with the “closet/toilet” word.

193 After getting used to the American way of life, we now find that closets are nice and
210 convenient. We can store lots of things in them. We especially like walk-in closets, which are
226 even more **spacious** than regular closets. You can put very big items in them!

240 Even though I thought closets were not a good idea at first, now I would rather have closets
258 in my home than a wardrobe. Closets are more practical.

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Understanding

1. What country is the author from? _____

2. What does the word **spacious** mean? _____

3. How are closets and wardrobes similar? _____

4. How are closets and wardrobes different? _____

5. What does the word **store** mean in this story? _____

6. How has the author's idea of closets changed? _____

Writing

Choice A: Retell the story in your own words.

Choice B: Write about a funny misunderstanding you have had or have heard about.
