

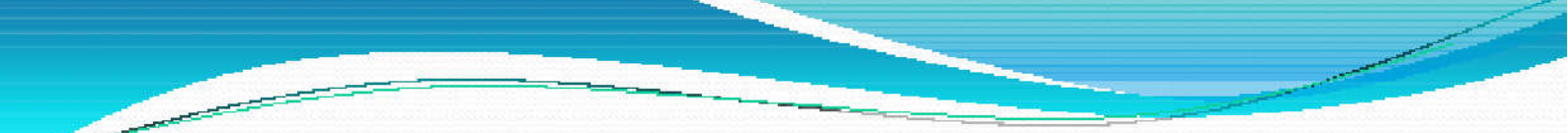


Unit 14

Homeless

Text Analysis

- Modern life is progressing on an accelerating pace and the majority of modern people are losing more and more control of their own lives. This makes them the victims of endless anxiety. Yet they do not know the cause of all this, nor can they find any solution to it. The author of this essay wants to find the cause of this problem and she focuses her attention on home. By the word “homeless”, we generally mean the state of not having a material house. Yet, through her investigation and observation, the writer adds new meaning to this word which reveals a worse problem suffered by many people living in modern society, even if they do have a house.

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- The problem is the loss of the traditional conception of home and traditional family values in people's mind. With the development of modern life, the concept of home has gradually lost its connotation of permanence and stability. People living in a house have no sense of belonging and pride of ownership at all. The writer points out the faults of society in dealing with this problem, which is turning the problem into an issue while ignoring people's delicate feelings. If society does not take the problem seriously, all modern people would become homeless in this way or that.

Structural Analysis

In terms of organization, the article clearly falls into three main parts:

The first part (Paragraphs 1-3) starts with a specific example and then naturally moves on to the discussion of the topic.

The second part (Paragraphs 4-7) gives a definition of home and points out the symptoms of the problem concerning home in modern society.

The third part (Paragraphs 8-9) is also the ending of the writing, the writer talks about the fault of society in dealing with the problem of homelessness and calls on people to look at the problem from a microcosmic perspective.

Language Work

- **pass through:**
- go through a town, etc., stopping there for a short time but not staying
- We came to say hello as we were passing through.
- **experience**
- China is passing through the stage of urbanization and modernization.
- **rummage:**
- search unsystematically and untidily through a mass or in a receptacle
- He rummage the drawer for his false teeth.

suburb:

- district outside the central part of a town or city
- in a/the suburb of Beijing, London
- in the inner/outer suburbs
- 在近 (远) 郊
- (pl.) **suburbs**: verge
- the suburbs of destruction
- **suburban** adj.
- a suburban street, shop, newspaper
- (fig.): limited in outlook, dull
- a rather suburban point of view

driveway: drive

- a private road that connects a house, garage, or other building with the street.
- There was a car parked in / on the driveway.
- **cf. path, road, way, street, highway, avenue, motorway, route, lane, pavement, trail**
- path 多指由人或动物在田间、小丘或树丛中经常走动而踩出的小路，也可指公园或花园等供人走的小径。
- road 指连接两地间供行人或车辆使用的广阔平坦的大道，多指公路，也可用于引申意义。
- way 普通用词，含义广泛，可指各种路、道或通道等，也可指抽象的道路。

- **street** 尤指城市中的道路，往往一侧或两侧有高大建筑物；还可指城市小镇、近郊供人、车行走的平坦道路。
- **highway** 常指市区外可通行各种机动车辆的交通干线。
- **avenue** 在美国，指城市中一侧或两侧建筑物林立的大道或马路；而在英国则常指通往乡村大住宅、私人大庄园或两旁栽树的道路。
- **motorway** 高速公路，新词，特指为车辆快速通行而修的专线，美语为 **freeway** 或 **expressway**。
- **route** 指从此处通往彼处的路线、路程等。
- **lane** 指农村或城镇的小道或小径，也指小巷。
- **pavement** 在英国，多指街道两旁的人行道，而美国人常用 **sidewalk** 表示人行道。
- **trail** 指人或兽在森林、荒野或山中踩出的小径或崎岖小道。

It was like a thousand houses in a hundred towns, not

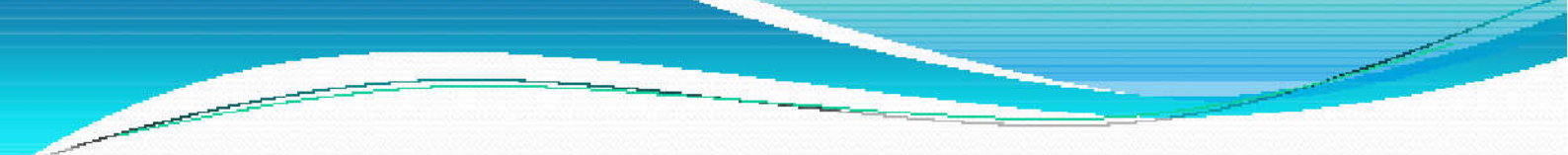
Explanation:

With this description of a house, a very ordinary one found nearly in any town in the U.S. the author wants to indicate Ann's real situation: what she had really got was a house, but not a home in the real sense of the word.

You are where you live. She was somebody.

Explanation:

One belongs to the place where he or she lives. The place where one lives gives him his identity. So Ann claims her own identity, given the house she once had and everything inside it.

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- **legacy:**
 - money or property that is given to you by sb when they die
 - They each received a legacy of £4 000.
 - something handed down from an ancestor or a predecessor or from the past
 - The Greeks have a rich legacy of literature.
 - The war has left a legacy of hatred.

- **wind up:**
- come to be in an unexpected and usu. unpleasant situation, esp. as a result of what one does
- He was addicted to drugs, and finally wound up in prison.
- Because of ill management, the company wound up being a huge debt to pay off.
- **ferocity:**
- fierceness; violence; ferociousness
- *The lion attacked its victim with great ferocity.*
- **ferocious** adj.



I love my home with a ferocity totally out of proportion

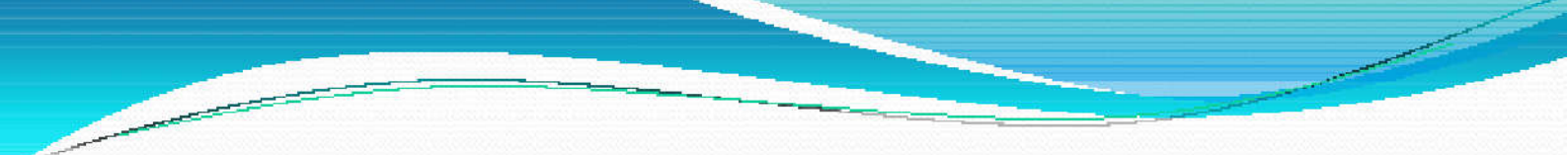
Paraphrase:

Even if my home is small and shabby, and of a disadvantageous location, I still bear strong and deep love for it.

edge:

- move slowly with gradual movements or in gradual stages
- As the economic crisis continues to worsen, the unemployment rate has edged up to nearly 6% over the past twelve months.
- She edged way through the crowd to the front just to be closer to her idol.
- **enfeeble:**
- (esp. passive) make weak or feeble; to deprive of strength
- He is enfeebled by age.

- **be reduced to:**
- bring sb/sth into a specified (usu. worse) state or condition
- be reduced to begging, borrowing
- reduce sb to tears, silence, despair, obedience
- 使某人流泪、沉默、绝望、顺从
- **huddle:**
- crowd or be heaped together, esp. in a small space
- *sheep huddling (up) together for warmth*
- *We all huddled around the radio to hear the news.*

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- **crux:**
 - most vital or difficult part of a matter, an issue
 - 症结
 - *pl.* **crux·es** or **cru·ces**
 - the crux of the matter/problem
 - The crux of the matter lies in our lack of expert knowledge.

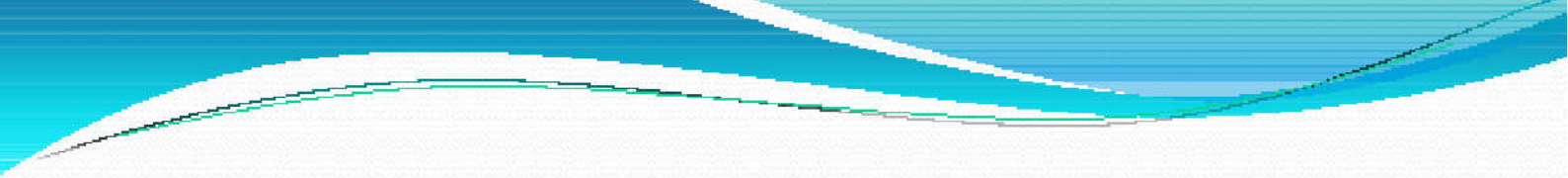
- **terminal:**
- **n.** either end of a railroad or other transportation line
- **adj.** final, taking place each term; causing, ending in, or approaching death; fatal
- a terminal exam
- terminal cancer
- a terminal patient

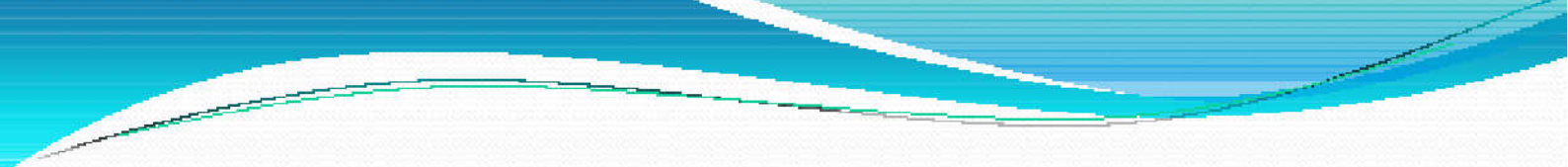


But in the main I think we work around it, just as we

Paraphrase:

But on the whole I think we have not addressed the issue honestly and directly; it is like that the problem is lying on the floor and we just walk around it.

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- **be better off (doing sth):**
 - **be wiser (to do sth specified)**
 - He'd be better off going to the police about it.
 - **be better off without sb/sth:**
 - **be happier or more at ease without sb/sth**
 - We'd be better off without them as neighbours.


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- **stroke:**
 - single movement of a pen or brush
 - *thin/thick strokes*
 - 细/粗笔画
 - *with a stroke of the pen*
 - 用笔一挥
 - **broad strokes:**
 - rough outline or main points of a matter

That is everything. (Paragraph 9)

Explanation:

They (the above-mentioned problems) are not unimportant things, but so significant as to affect a person's feeling of existing as an integrated person. Or, if people cannot have a real home with all its emotional features and relative family values, they can not have certainty, stability and privacy in modern society.


What is the writer's emphasis in her definition of "home"?

-  She is not merely talking about shelter from the elements, but what would provide people living in it with certainty, stability, predictability and privacy.


What is the writer's method in investigating this problem?

-  The writer's method is a microcosmic one which focuses on specific people and their detailed feelings.


What is the author's definition of home?

 In defining home, the writer considers both the material and the emotional elements. In her definition, home is not only a shelter, but a place of certainty, stability, predictability and privacy for all the members of the family.


What is the problem concerning home in modern society?

 In modern society, people do not live in one place all their life, so the word “home” has lost its connotation of permanence and stability. People do not own the place they live, so they have no sense of belonging and pride of ownership about such a home.

What does the author think is the fault of society in dealing with the problem of homelessness?

 Society turns the problem into an issue, taking people's pain and lessening its own participation in it. By doing so, society will not be able to solve the problem from its origin.

What is the perspective suggested by the writer in solving the problem?



The writer suggests people forget about the broad strokes and concentrate on the details. This would bring people back to the essence of the problem and enable them to have real sympathy towards those people who have no home.

1) anonymous *a.* → anonymity *n.*

e.g. 作者希望姓名不公开。

 The author wishes to remain **anonymous**.

这本书的匿名引起许多猜测。

 The **anonymity** of the book causes many gusses.

2) ferocity *n.* → ferocious *a.*

e.g. 狮子凶猛地扑向猎物。

 The lion attacked its victim with great **ferocity**.
猛烈的狂风仿佛要把船撕成碎片似的。

 The **ferocious** winds seemed about to tear the ship to pieces.

3) predictability *n.* → predict *v.* → prediction *n.* → predicable *a.*

e.g. 学术研究中的普遍性、确定性与预测性问题

 universality, certainty and **predictability** in academic research

我能很准确地预测某事。

 I can **predict** something with great accuracy.
这个预言确实实现了。

 The **prediction** was literally accomplished.
可预测的结论

 a **predicable** conclusion

4) leak v. → leakage n. → leaky a.

e.g. 煤气泄漏时，必须把阀门关上。

 You must shut the gas supply off if it leaks.

泄露机密信息


 leakages of confidential information

房顶是漏的，雨进来了。

 The roof is leaky and the rain comes in.

5) spoon *n.* → spoonful *a.*

e.g. 她把糖放进咖啡里，用勺子把它们混合起来。

 She put the sugar into the coffee and mixed them up with a spoon.

请给我两勺糖。

 Two spoonfuls of sugar, please.

6) damn v. → damnable a. → damnation n.

e.g. 评论家们谴责该剧。

 The critics **damned** the play.

这鬼天气!

 This **damnable** weather!

受到永远的惩罚

 **suffer eternal damnation**

7) qualify v. → qualified a. → qualification n.

e.g. 我队已有资格进入半决赛。

 Our team has **qualified** for the semi-final.

她能胜任这一工作。

 She is **qualified** to do the job.

做这项工作需要什么资格？

 What sort of **qualifications** do you need for the job?

8) terminal *a.* → terminate *v.*

e.g. 我们在终站下车。

 We got off at the **terminal** station.

他们已中止了合同。

 They have **terminated** the contract.

1. She was not adrift, alone, anonymous, although her bags and her raincoat with the grime shadowing its creases had _____.

Synonyms

2. I've never | _____ | t the big picture, taking the _____ s been a person with an overactive sense of place, the legacy of an Irish grandfather.

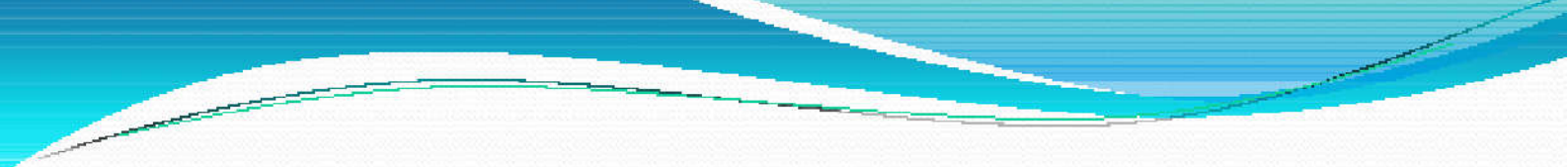
Antonyms: local, partial, restricted

3. I love my home with a **ferocity** totally out of proportion to its appearance or lo

Synonyms: fierceness

4. And yet it is precisely t _____ that make it what it is – a place of _____, predictability, privacy, for me and for my family.

Synonyms: security, safety

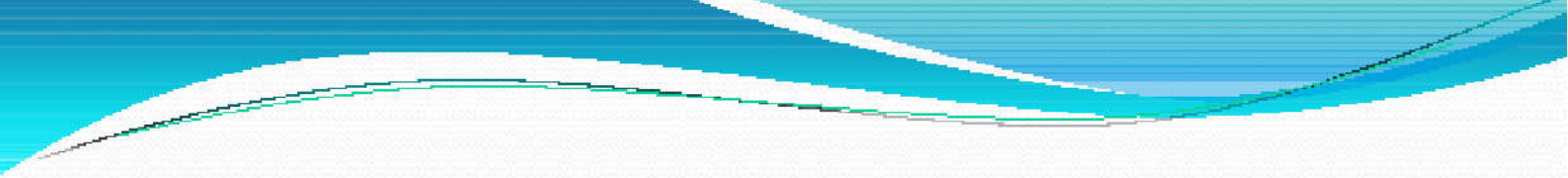


5. People find it curious that those without homes would rather sleep sitting up on benches or **huddled** in doorways than go to shelters.

Synonyms: crouch

6. But some seem to want something that is not **available** in shelters, and they will not compromise, not for a cot, or oatmeal, or a shower with special soap that kills the bugs.

Antonyms: inaccessible, unobtainable



7. This is a difficult problem, and some wise and compassionate people are working hard at it.

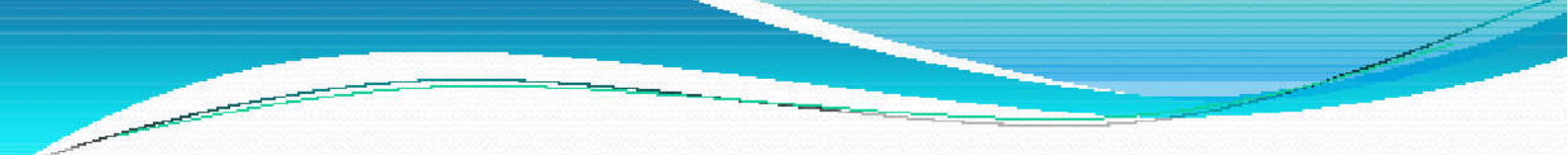
Antonyms: indifferent, heartless, apathetic

8. Sometimes I think we would be better off if we forgot about the broad strokes and concentrated on the details.

Synonyms: specific, particular

KEY

- 1. She rummaged through five drawers before she found her wedding ring.
- 2. Somehow I feel he is edging away from his former position, a rather radical one.
- 3. Their newly established company is not running smoothly; the crux of the matter lies in lack of funds and expert knowledge.
- 4. Over a decade, it has been customary for me to think before I leap whenever I come across something new.

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- 5. He wondered why the donor remained anonymous.
 - 6. *Beowulf*, the national epic of the Anglo-Saxons, describes how ancient people waged heroic struggles against the hostile elements.
 - 7. He thinks he will be a second Bill Gates, which, to me, is nothing but a mere fantasy.
 - 8. He does everything well, as he pays sufficient attention to details instead of just relying on broad strokes.