

WHAT A HOME IS, AND WHAT IS NOT

Inspired on a poem of Ernestine Schumann-Hein

Points for Reflection, Discussion and Sharing

A. Before reading and discussing the poem “What a Home is and what is not”

- Fill the frames below
- Do not use sentences, but only meaningful symbolic words that spontaneously come to your mind, for instance a nest, a garden, a jail, etc

<u>1. WHAT A HOME IS SUPPOSED TO BE?</u>	<u>2. WHAT A HOME IS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE?</u>	<u>3. WHAT OUR HOMES TEND TO BE TODAY?</u>
1. A Garden	1 A Jail	1
2. A Nest	2 A Factory	2
3	3	3
4	4	4
5	5	5
6	6	6
7	7	7
8	8	8
9	9	9
10	10	10

B Next, group sharing, reflection and discussion based on the entries you made in the table.

1. From your entries, **IN FRAME 3**, what sort of image emerges about our homes today?
2. What are the emotional undertones underlining your entries **IN FRAME 3** about our homes?
3. Do you think that your home is alright keeping in mind your **entries IN FRAMES 1 and 2?** Explain. What’s missing in your home?
4. What can you do to change the quality and emotional undertones of your home? How to go about it?

C Give to each, a copy of the poem.

- Read it, comment on it.
- Ask for their comments and reactions

WHAT A HOME IS NOT

Just a roof to keep out the rain?
 Just four walls to keep out the wind?
 Just a floor to keep out the cold?
 Not so, but just much more!

WHAT A HOME IS

A home is the laugh of the baby.
 A home is the song of a mother.
 A home is the strength of a father.
 It's the warmth of living hearts.

It's the first church
 And the first school for the young ones.
 Where they learn what is right,
 What is good and what is kind.
 Where joys are shared,
 And sorrows eased.

Where Father and Mother are revered and loved.
 Where children are wanted.
 Where the simplest of food
 Is good enough for kings
 Because it's earned with love.

Where loving kindness is ever greater than wealth.
 Where the tea kettle sings from happiness!
 That is a home! O lord bless such a home!

D Close down with a Prayer for Our Homes.

Dear God our Loving Father
 We bring to you our dear family
 With all our hopes and dreams
 You know what we need better than we do
 Each one of us, is a gift of your love
 Your trust, a gift to our family,
 A gift to the world.

Of all the wondrous ways you speak to us
 The first is the voice of our family
 Thank you lord, for our family

Thank you for all we share
The joys and laughter, the tears and work
And for the unique gifts
Each one of us brings.

Pardon us and heal us for our selfishness
We hurt each other
In words and deeds and silences
We need your healing each moment, lord
For without your constant care
How can we hold each other in love?

Source of all love; make us aglow with love
Thoughtful and caring, generous in forgiving
Joyful in service, open to give and receive.

May we treat one another
Always and every where
As members of your own family.

We make this prayer in love and confidence,
to you, the Father of every family on earth.