

**UNIT 6 Journeys / Visions of the Future**  
**Independent Reading**

A STEM school  
**FROEBEL**  
BILINGUAL SCHOOL  
Home of the Space Generation



# HOMELESS

WITH  
**JIM SOTO**

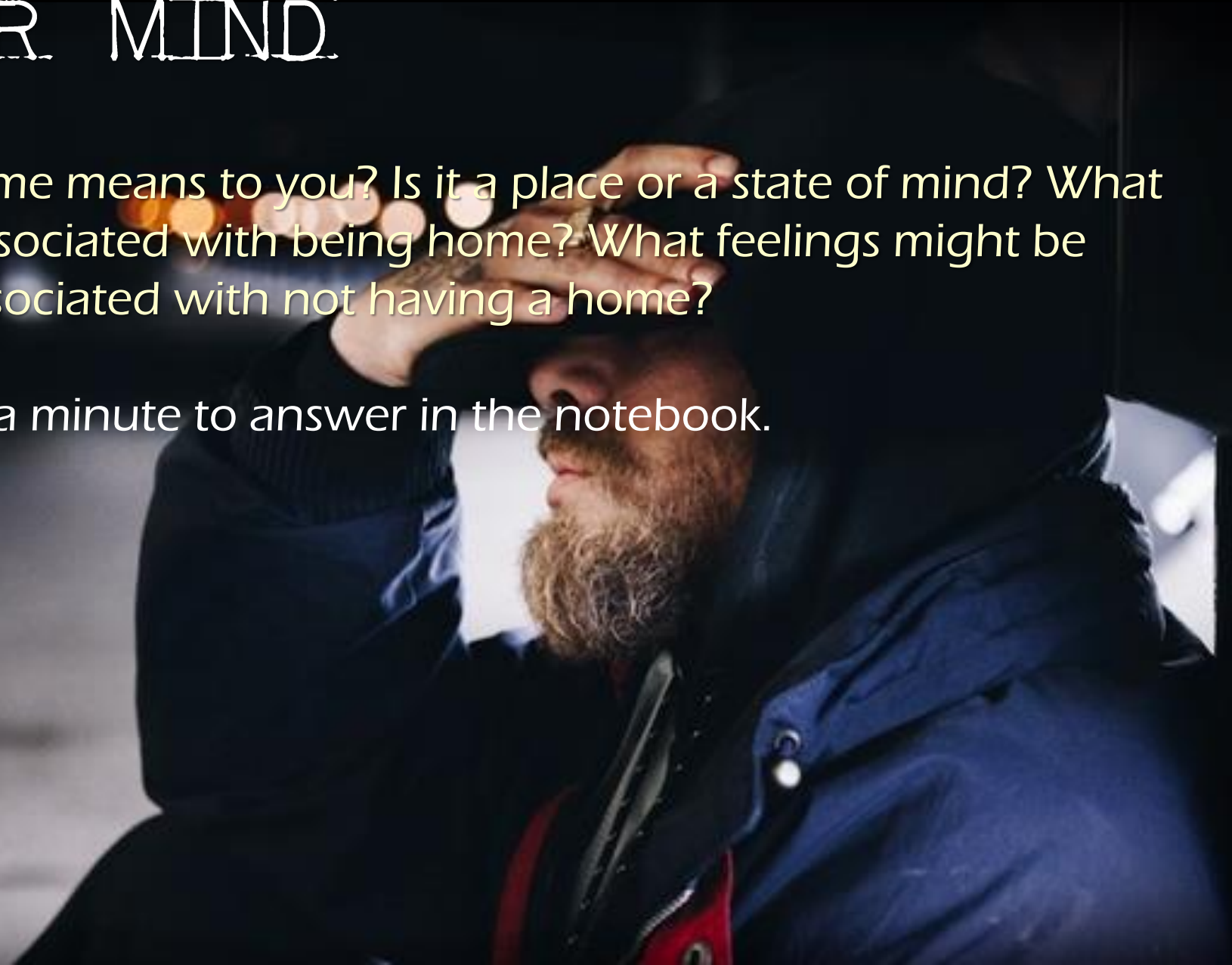


Homelessness or houselessness – also known as a state of being unhoused or unsheltered – is the condition of lacking stable, safe, and functional housing. 582,462 individuals are experiencing homelessness in America, an increase of about 2,000 people since the last complete census conducted in 2020.

# SPEAK YOUR MIND

What does the term home means to you? Is it a place or a state of mind? What feelings might be associated with being home? What feelings might be associated with not having a home?

Take a minute to answer in the notebook.



Philadelphia native Anna Quindlen (b. 1952) is perhaps best known for her regular columns in the New York Times and Newsweek. She has earned several prestigious awards, including the 1992 Pulitzer Prize for her Times column "Public & Private." "I think of a column as having a conversation with a person that it just so happens I can't see," she once said.





“Homeless,” an insightful take on a pervasive societal issue, was published in a 1988 collection of Anna Quindlen’s columns called *Living Out Loud*. In the reflective essay, Quindlen explains what home means to her and then examines what it means to people who lack one of their own. What do you know about homeless people? Have you ever met someone who didn’t have a home of his or her own?



Homelessness is a complex issue and can happen for many different reasons. Lets watch an interview with Mona, a homeless woman from Los Angeles, CA.



# LITERARY CONCEPT

## Main Idea

The main idea of an essay is similar to the theme or central message of a story or poem. The main idea is the point of the paragraph. It is the most important thought about the topic. To figure out the main idea, ask yourself this question: What is being said about the person, thing, or idea (the topic)?

# ASSESSMENT

After reading pgs. 566 -569, in your book, complete these activities:

1. Answer the following questions:
  - a. What purpose does it serve to “lessen our own participation” in the troubles of others?
  - b. Why does this happen and what does it say about the people who allow this to happen?
  - c. How might people resist this habit?
2. Summarize the essay and identify why Quindlen says she is better at looking at the details than at the big picture. Which has she tried to do in this essay?



3. Critique how successful Quindlen has been in debunking stereotypes about homeless people. Explain.
4. Do you think Quindlen's essay might influence your future thoughts about and actions toward people who are homeless? Why or why not?



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