

**Topic: There's No Place Like Home**

**Let's get started . . .** When you were little, where did you live? Did you grow up in the same town, or even the same house? Or did you move from house to house, town to town, or even country to country? Is there a place that was your "childhood home"? Explain.

**Story:** A farm girl named Dorothy runs away from home to save her little dog, Toto, in the movie "The Wizard of Oz". Then a tornado carries Dorothy far from home to a strange and magical land called Oz. There she meets new friends, makes enemies, finds a pair of magic red shoes and has many adventures. Although Oz is a beautiful place, Dorothy wants to go home to her aunt and uncle and asks for help. But, no one can help her. Finally, she learns that if she wishes to go back home, she can easily do it. She taps the heels of her magic red shoes three times and repeats "there's no place like home." In a moment of time she is taken back to her home in Kansas.







**In pairs for 10 minutes, ask and answer these questions:**

Do you like adventures? Do you like to go to new places? Why or why not?



**Share your partner's answers with the group.**

**Ask 3 people in your class where they want their home to be, and why.**

What is your name?	Do you want a home in a city? 	Do you want a home in the country? 	Do you want a home in a suburb? 	Do you want 2 or 3 homes? 

**Discussion Questions - talk in pairs or small groups:**

The meaning of "home" is different for people at different ages. Think of your life and people both younger and older than you. What is important about "home" for . . . ?

. . . a baby

. . . a 5-year old

. . . a teenager



. . . a young adult away at college

. . . a new family with small children

. . . parents with teenagers

. . . empty nesters

. . . grandparents

. . . elderly widows or widowers



**Sense of place** - This phrase can mean a personal feeling about a place that is familiar and comfortable, and feels like home, even if it is not your home. Some elderly people may only feel a sense of place in one or two places - at their residence or one special restaurant or a child's home. **Where do you have a "sense of place"?**

What is it like to leave home? Tell about an experience in your life of leaving home. Did you go back to your former home - to live or to visit? Did your former home change while you were gone? Were the changes positive (good) or negative (bad)? Explain.

Do you like to move often? Do you hope to stay in one home or city for 10, 20, 30 or more years? Why or why not?

What do you like about your current home? What do you **not** like about it? How many different homes have you had in your life? Tell about one or more of them.



We have a saying in the U.S. - "Home is where the heart is." Where is your heart most at home? Why?

What does it feel like to be homeless? Have you ever been, or known someone who was, homeless?

**New vocabulary:** tornado, strange, magical, enemies, adventures, wish, tap, heels, empty nesters, sense of place, at home, leave home, moment of time

**Keep talking about it this week:** Ask someone to tell you about their home. Write down their response and be ready to share with the group at the next Talk Time.

**More about "The Wizard of Oz" at:**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Wizard\\_of\\_Oz\\_\(1939\\_film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Wizard_of_Oz_(1939_film))