

HOW 'AT HOME' ARE YOU?

Last week we identified, through the most widely quoted verses of poets, the **six themes of home**. It may seem that these are feelings, emotional longings which have nothing to do with the day to day reality of home. Next week, we'll look at how this is not so. Our poetic longings for home is in fact accurate about the role that home does play in our culture, our society and our economy—when it's allowed to. But first, **let's assess how well your home is doing on each of the six themes**. Below, you'll find a simple questionnaire. For each question, rank how you feel about your home on a scale of 1-3.

1-NO

This doesn't really apply

2-MAYBE

This might be true

3-YES

That's definitely how I am

LOVE

- Q1 It's great spending time with the people that I live with.
- Q2 The people in the home are the first that I turn to with my problems.
- Q3 I can't imagine living without the people in my home.

Image credit: Shimaru, The Noun Project

ACCEPTANCE

- Q4 I never worry about what others might think of me at home.
- Q5 When I get home, I feel completely myself.
- Q6 What I love doing, and what I need to do at home, are one and the same.

Image credit: Chris, The Noun Project

PEACE

- Q7 Nothing bothers me at home, except what I bring home with me from work.
- Q8 I feel the stress melt off me when I get home.
- Q9 When I want to get away from the problems of the world, I want to go home.

Image credit: Carin Marzaro, The Noun Project

CHILDREN

(If you don't have any, just give this whole section a score of 6)

- Q10 When I'm away from home, I miss my kids.
- Q11 Having kids around the house makes me feel good.
- Q12 I learn as much from being with children as I do from adults.

Image credit: Soodam Elesti Lee, The Noun Project

RETURN

- Q13 When I imagine my future, the first thing I imagine is home.
- Q14 At the end of the day, I can't wait to get home.
- Q15 When I imagine my last day, I imagine dying at home.

Image credit: Andrey Ilinskiy, The Noun Project

CENTRALITY

- Q16 The purpose of my work is ultimately to create a great home.
- Q17 If I didn't have to go out to work or shop, I'd spend most of my time at home.
- Q18 I spend as much time thinking about what's happening at home, as about anything else.

Image credit: Richard Schumann The Noun Project

If you add up your score you'll get a number between 18 and 54. Roughly:

18-30

Your home is not working for you: providing you with all things that it could.

31-42

Your home is doing a so-so job, and you have at least a taste of what it could be.

43-54

Your home is singing: there may only be a few rough patches to iron out.