

NEWS BREAK

Article: **What does it take to buy a house? Maybe Mom and Dad**

Section: **MAIN, A10**

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, June 2, 2024** of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some teachers might use this as a take-home assignment and others might read and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

****Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for your students.***

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Objectives:

Students will learn about the realities of the current U.S. housing market and ways some families are working together to buy property for their children. Students will talk about the disparities and wealth inequality in terms of buying a home and the ethical implications of young people becoming too financially reliant on their parents. They'll discuss the "American Dream" concept and how it's changing.

Pre-Reading Discussion:



- What do you think the article will be about, using this picture?
- Are there any clues? What can you infer?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

“The trend of younger homebuyers, who are more often first-timers, seeking parental help to reach a middle-class milestone is just the latest sign of growing **disparities** between younger generations and older ones who have had more opportunities over the past 20 years to lock in cheaper mortgages.”

Disparities Guess:

Disparities Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. Homebuyers are increasingly turning to family members, most often parents, for help buying a house in _____ and _____ markets, reflecting a shift in the way many families finance homeownership.

2. The share of young homebuyers relying on older mortgage _____ is as high as it has been in at least 30 years.
3. Meanwhile, the share of homebuyers in their 20s, 30s and early 40s receiving financial help for a down payment is also rising, after declining for much of the past five years. Overall, _____% of homebuyers relied on down payment help from friends and family as of April, up from 9% last year.
4. The youngest buyers — ages _____ to _____ — were the most likely to receive familial help, with nearly 1 in 4 receiving cash gifts or loans toward their purchases.
5. “The housing market is an incredibly _____ place right now.”
6. The trend of younger homebuyers, who are more often first-timers, seeking parental help to reach a _____ - _____ milestone is just the latest sign of growing disparities between younger generations and older ones who have had more opportunities over the past 20 years to lock in cheaper mortgages.
7. More parents are also getting involved in the homebuying process from the beginning, considering joint purchases less of a handout to their children and more of what?
8. Mortgage costs have gone from all-time lows of about _____% to more than _____%, making it several times more costly to finance a home purchase.
9. The last time borrowing costs were this high was in the early 2000s, a generation ago. At the same time, home prices, which spiked during the pandemic, remain high with the median at \$_____, according to census data.
10. The result is an increasingly unaffordable market that isn't likely to improve any time soon: Goldman Sachs this month said it expects home values to rise another _____% in 2024, straining a housing market already hovering at record-low affordability.
11. Roughly ___ in 3 young adults are living with their parents, often to save money, an arrangement that picked up during the pandemic and has continued.
12. That shift reflects a new economic reality in which parents are playing a bigger role in supporting their children financially, well into _____.
13. Some _____% of adults in their 20s and early 30s said they received financial help from their parents in the past year, most often for household expenses like groceries or utilities.
14. The increased reliance on parental help is widening the divide between those who can afford a house and those who can't. Parents who own homes are more likely to have the resources to help their adult children, reinforcing the crucial role of homeownership in lifting what?
15. As a result, economists say it has become even harder for first-time homebuyers without familial help to break into the market. “The bigger problem is that young Americans who don't have family money are often shut out of homeownership. This contributes to wealth _____

and often prevents young people from gaining economic ground on their peers who come from more privileged backgrounds.

16. The increasing role of parents in the housing market is a precursor to what economists say will be a massive generational _____ in the coming years, as older Americans leave behind trillions to their heirs. Some of that is already making its way into the housing market.

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:

Class Discussion Questions:

- What surprised (or stood out to) you in the article?
- At first, I thought _____, but now I think _____?
- What things did you already know from prior experience?

Diving Deeper-Journal, Essay Prompts & Discussion Questions:

1. The article talks about a disparity (an unfair difference) between generations. How does this situation with buying a house show a disparity?
2. Do you think it's fair that some people get help from their parents to buy a house, while others don't? Why or why not?
3. The article mentions communication between parents and children. How is clear communication important in this situation?
4. The article mentions wealth inequality. Research this term and explain how it connects to the issue of buying a house.
5. The role of parents is changing. How might this trend of parents helping with homeownership affect future generations?
6. Consider the ethical implications. Is there a risk of young people becoming too reliant on their parents?
7. What are some alternative solutions for young people who want to buy a house but can't afford it on their own?
8. Should the government play a role in making homeownership more affordable for young people? Why or why not?
9. Imagine a world where everyone has an equal chance of buying a house. Describe what that world might look like.
10. The article mentions the "American Dream" of homeownership. What does this concept mean and how is it changing?

News Break is posted to the Web on Tuesday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please [register online](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.

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