

Reply to an Eviction Notice

Read the poem and answer the questions below.

Reply to an Eviction Notice

BY ROBERT FLANAGAN

My mother and father camped in such apartments
in their time, landlord, promoter
of cramped endurances,
your rightful inheritance. Your father
purchased shrewdly and practiced ungiving
well. Mine did not.
So my sweaty bursts of living
are managed in rooms
gauged like parking meters, narrow as coin slots,
while from the landscaped, architect-designed
vantage of your home
the town lies before a Monopoly board.
Ownership is your reward
and punishment; movement mine.

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—Reply to an Eviction Notice: Selected Poems (Bottom Dog Press | <http://smithdocs.net>)

Answer the following questions:

What does camping in an apartment imply?

How does the poet imply that this landlord obtained his property?

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UPPER GRADES ACTIVITY

What two similes does the poet use to describe renting an apartment? What do these similes imply?

How does the landlord’s home compare to the rental home?

What does the poet mean when he says that the town is like “a Monopoly board” for the landlord?

Why is movement a punishment?
