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◆関関同立英語

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① Last Christmas I was homeless , in a way , for a while. I felt homeless anyway , and the pain was sharp enough to give me a

small insight of what homelessness means and why it demands a larger response than building shelters.

② In fact I had a welcoming roof over my head. I was well fed. I was within reach of family and friends. Those who are actually , chronically homeless would have traded places with me in a minute.

③ But I had left my home , and I didn't expect to return. I was staying in someone else's house , much nicer than my own. But not my own.

④ I had planned to serve at a community Christmas dinner for the less fortunate. You know the kind – lots of turkey in a church basement , metal folding chairs and cheap tinsel. I wonder if the recipients of those dinners realize what a gift they are giving the donors. For years I had been the dispenser of good things , the

baker of cookies , the server of large , festive dinners. I badly needed to fill that role on Christmas Day. If I couldn't , I wouldn't quite know who I was.

⑤ The community dinner was canceled , and there I was , without an identity. I dropped in at friends' houses. I received their kindness with nothing to give. I was miserable. I did a lot of meditating about what that word "home" means.

⑥ What I do know is that homelessness requires more than warehouses to remove the homeless from our sight. It requires attention , engagement , the willingness to focus on homeless people not as statistics but as individuals who need to be welcomed back as full members of the human race.

[1] (A)~(C)の問いの答えとしてもっとも適当なものを(1)~(4)からそれぞれ一つずつ選びなさい。

(A) How did the writer spend last Christmas Day ?

- (1) Building shelter for the homeless.
- (2) Serving meals to homeless people.
- (3) Visiting friends and thinking a lot.
- (4) Looking for a place to live.

(B) Why was the writer miserable ?

- (1) Because she was unable to meet her family.
- (2) Because the community dinner was canceled.
- (3) Because she had nowhere to stay.
- (4) Because she had lost her identity card.

(C) What was the main thing that the writer learned from her experience?

(1) That she had many kind friends.

(2) That many people are worse off than her.

(3) That a home is more than just a shelter.

(4) That the homeless never enjoy Christmas.