

READING WRITTEN TEXTS – PROSE

TEXT A: *Leaving Home* (an article for young adults)

Read Text A below, then answer questions 1–3.

5 When the time comes for me to move out of home for good, I know it's not going to be easy. For starters, it's going to be pretty hard trying to get into the car with Mum hanging off my left leg, Dad repeating every bit of fatherly advice he's ever given me since I turned six, and my sisters and brother fighting over any leftover CDs and probably trying to establish land rights over my bedroom.

At least, that's the way I *think* it will be. Maybe they'll all be pretty cool and simply wave me on my merry way.

10 In some ways, life might really be simpler if we came with 'living at home' use-by dates attached. Or maybe if we were fitted with one of those meat thermometer things that would pop out when we were 'cooked' and ready to move on.

Before we look at when we're ready to leave home, maybe we should look at why we want to do it. After all, chances are once you move out:

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- There's not going to be any dinner waiting for you when you get home at the end of a long day.
 - The fridge will probably be empty more often than full.
 - The bills will all be addressed to you.
 - You're going to have to accept that there really isn't a cleaning fairy
- 20 who comes in and picks up your dirty socks.

Alison is 28 and can remember leaving home pretty clearly. She was really excited about her big move and thought life was going to be wonderful ... until the rats in the back yard started up. She remembers calling up her dad in the middle of the night:

25 *I swear they were as big as dogs, and by the time Dad got there I was trying to push the fridge up against the back door so they couldn't break my laundry door down! Rats on steroids! They were huge! Obviously the really big ones had taken off when Dad arrived because he only saw regular-sized ones. But I still wore my highest platform shoes every time I went into that laundry!*

30 But don't let stories like this put you off leaving home. It just shows that you have to be realistic when you move out. Don't get caught up in the excitement of escaping your parents and having lots of parties, or you'll be let down badly when the reality sets in. The way to do it is just be sensible.