

Name:

Chapter 7 (The Elderly) Grandma's House

Story A

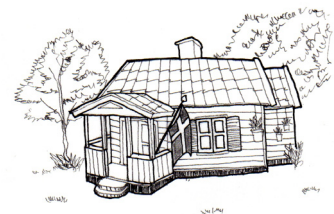
Hi Hana,

I'm glad that you and your family had a nice birthday with Mats. My grandmother is 1) _____ years old, but still lives alone in her favorite small red house in the forest.

She uses elderly home care services, so 2) _____ nurses or home care workers come daily to help her. The nurses help with medical care, and the home care workers assist with Grandma's cooking, 3) _____, laundry, 4) _____, shopping, or sometimes just going for a walk. Thanks to such help, she can continue the lifestyle she has chosen for herself.

During the weekends, my parents or 5) _____ visit her in turns to help out. My mother is in a "work sharing program" where she works 6) _____ weeks and then gets 7) _____ week off. During her break, she stays at Grandma's house to help her. In Sweden, the social welfare system may be advanced, but 8) _____ is also important. I love to visit her lovely old house—I always enjoy picking blueberries or mushrooms in the forest for her.

Of course some people 9) _____ in special senior apartments for self-supporting elderly. Others may want to live in "elderly homes" for people who need more daily assistance. We also have 10) " _____ " with high-level medical care which treat elderly people with chronic illnesses. Another type of housing is "group homes" specializing in dementia care, shared by about 11) _____ or 12) _____ elderly people.



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Story B

Nowadays, we call various types of places for the elderly not “facilities” but “housing,” aiming for a more homelike 1) _____ where each person’s self-determination is respected.

The attached picture 2) _____ a castle, but in reality it is a housing complex for the elderly. The rooms are often decorated with residents’ favorite furniture and many photos full of nice memories. In some elderly housing, pets are welcomed to 3) _____ the elderly so that people can live a lifestyle they are used to. Other housing has restaurants open to the public to encourage exchanges between different 4) _____ .

In order to provide such varied care, taxes in Sweden are very high. Sales tax is 5) _____ % and it is not unusual to pay half of one’s income in taxes. However, it is said that 6) _____ % of taxes we pay come back to us in welfare services like medical care, assistance in raising children and support for the elderly.

I think that this system shows our country’s fundamental attitude to people’s welfare—any risks that occur in one’s life must be shared by society as a whole, so as not to leave the 7) _____ to the individual or family alone. Hana, you asked me if I am satisfied with the social welfare system of this country. Well, I believe that this welfare system is one which we can be proud of, although we are still continuing to 8) _____ it.

Lotta

