Comprehension

1. **Read and decode:** What is the **subject** of the poem? (1)

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2. **Explore and explain:** List words related to destruction: (1)

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3. **Infer:** What is the mood of the poem? Give evidence to prove your point: (2)

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4. **Infer:** How do you know that a death has occurred? (1)

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5. **Author's choice of language:** Give an example of **personification**: (1)

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   Why did the author use this? (1)

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Home Sweet Home
by Obediah Stoneheart

Once alive;
Now dead and buried.

Once a home;
Now a graveyard.

Once lit warm with fire;
Now charred, scarred.

Once sturdy and tall;
Now crippled and crushed.

Once filled with laughter;
Now wracked with tears.

Once home sweet home;
Now home no more.

Home Sweet Home - Answer guidance

1. **Read and decode:** What is the **subject** of the poem? (1)
   The poem is comparing a home before and after a World War II bombing.

2. **Explore and explain:** List words related to destruction: (1)
   charred, crushed

3. **Infer:** What is the mood of the poem? Give evidence to prove your point: (2)
   The poem has two moods – one mood reflects on how the house was before it was destroyed – a warm, happy home 'lit warm with fire'; the second mood contrasts – giving a sense of death and destruction – a very unhappy mood ' wracked with tears'.

4. **Infer:** How do you know that a death has occurred? (1)
   'Now a graveyard; implies that someone was buried under the rubble in the air raid / killed in the bombing.

5. **Author's choice of language:** Give an example of **personification**:(1)
   Words from the poem that personify the building: dead / crippled

   Why did the author use this? (1)
   The author is using personification to show that the house was once a living, breathing, happy place – but now it is dead and crippled – all of that life has gone from the house after the bombing. The author wants to show that the house was once alive with people, but now it is dead – the people gone.