

The real-life 'UP' house

reading

You are going to read an article about Edith Macefield who refused to leave her home when developers wanted to demolish it. What would you like to learn from the article?

Read the article and ask the appropriate questions to obtain the missing information.

USA Today

March 2015



The real-life 'Up' house finally faces wrecking ball

The real-life 'Up' house, which saw its elderly owner refuse to take \$_____ from developers to move out looks set to be demolished after failing to sell at auction.

In 2006, Edith Macefield took a stand against developers by staying in the house in Seattle's Ballard neighborhood where she had lived for almost ____ years despite being offered money to leave so new retail and office space could be created.

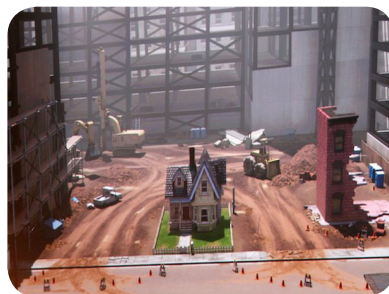
Both she and the 1,000 square foot house became a symbol of _____ after developers were forced to awkwardly build around it.

The story mirrored the plot of the Disney Pixar movie Up, which sees an elderly man refuse to leave his house to go into a nursing home so he turns it into a makeshift airship by _____.

Publicists for the movie tied balloons to Macefield's house to promote the film. That didn't turn out quite as planned, because wind blew the balloons into surrounding walls, popping many of them.

Ms Macefield turned down the money for the simple reason that she did not want to leave.

She had moved there in 1952 to _____.



It was home to all of her memories, and a large collection of ceramic cats, dogs and cows.

The money meant nothing to her and she had already rejected a smaller buyout offer a couple of years before.

As concrete walls began to tower some five floors high above her home, her fame grew and she earned the grudging respect of _____ that would pass by every day.

Ms Macefield never had to leave her home, and she died there aged _____, leaving the small house sandwiched between a Trader Joe's and an

L.A. Fitness.

Ironically, she left the house to _____.

Barry Martin was one of several construction workers that got to know Ms Macefield, often dropping in to check on her.

Mr Martin would even drive her to hair appointments, run errands, cook for her and take her to hospital.

'All she wanted to do was live and die in her house, and that seemed like a pretty simple request,' he said.

Ms Macefield, a very private person, did not like _____ she received.

Despite shunning the limelight she has been immortalized in Seattle due to her refusal of the developer's money.

Some _____ people are reported to have tattoos of her house; a drink is named after her at a local cocktail bar; and the _____ still attracts a crowd of 3,000 people each year.



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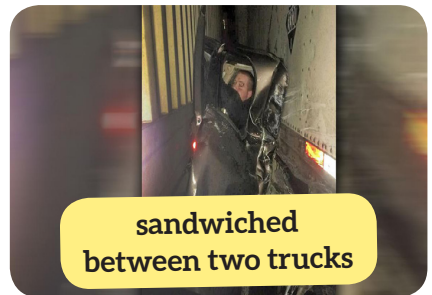
Which aspect of the story do you find the most interesting? Can you think of any other individuals who have stood up to large corporations in this way?

Find synonyms in the article for these words and expressions:

- 1 _____ a public sale in which prospective purchasers bid against each other until the highest price is reached
- 2 _____ related to selling goods to consumers
- 3 _____ reflect, represent
- 4 _____ suitable as a temporary substitute
- 5 _____ refuse to accept
- 6 _____ insert between two other things
- 7 _____ visit (someone) without warning
- 8 _____ a short and quick trip to accomplish a specific purpose
- 9 _____ keep away from (a place, person, object, etc.), for motives of caution, etc.
- 10 _____ attention or the place where the attention is

Complete these sentences with the correct form of the words above:

- 1 The actor _____ press attention and doesn't like to have his photograph taken.
- 2 "Can we meet this afternoon?" "Yes, I can _____ a meeting between lunch and the presentation I have to do later."
- 3 The opinions we encountered in London _____ those we heard in New York. They were almost the same.
- 4 We forgot to take any cutlery when we went camping so we made a _____ fork with sticks.
- 5 The price in the _____ started at \$100,000 and ended at \$150,000.
- 6 "My office is very near your house." "Really, _____ to see me after work whenever you like."
- 7 She _____ the job offer because the hours were too long.
- 8 I have to pay some bills and run some other _____. I will be back in an hour.
- 9 The phone's _____ price is \$600 including VAT.
- 10 Her best-selling novel put the young author in the _____. Everybody wanted to interview and write about her.



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👁️ What does the highlighted phrasal verb in this extract from the article mean?

USA Today

March 2015

Both she and the 1,000 square foot house became a symbol of **standing up to** corporate giants...

✍️ There are a number of phrasal verbs with **stand**.

Complete the gaps with these prepositions to make the phrasal verbs defined:

by **down** **for (x2)** **out** **in** **up (x2)**

- 1 stand _____ be ready if needed
- 2 stand _____ be prominent or conspicuous
- 3 stand _____ give up an official position
- 4 stand _____ act in place of another
- 5 stand _____
 - a) rise to one's feet from a sitting or other position
 - b) remain valid, sound, or durable
- 6 stand _____ support
- 7 stand _____ be an abbreviation or symbol for; represent; symbolize

✍️ Complete the gaps in these sentences with the appropriate prepositions:

- 1 The TV chef always has a fireman standing _____ in case there is a fire.
- 2 After three years as president of the club, John stood _____.
- 3 One of the musicians was ill, so a friend stood _____ for him in the concert.
- 4 Simon really stands _____ in China because he is 6ft tall and very blond.
- 5 The children always stand _____ when their teacher enters the room.
- 6 If your boss criticises you unfairly, you must stand _____ him.
- 7 No one ever stands _____ me, I really need some support.
- 8 NATO stands _____ 'North Atlantic Treaty Organization'.

✍️ Write sentences of your own with the phrasal verbs.

