

## Lesson 11

## READ THIS STORY #1, Advanced

**Neighborhood Blight**

Troy was concerned about neighborhood blight. A few years ago, when Troy took possession of his home, his neighborhood had been an attractive part of the city. He had been proud to live there. It seemed inconceivable that so many changes had occurred in such a short time.

The problems started when the Department of Transportation announced plans to locate a major highway through the center of the district. There had been a number of debates, but the city council stood firm.

Even though it would be many years before the highway was constructed, people became frightened. They believed that their property values would go down. The city offered to pay for houses that were in the path of the new road. Some owners felt the offers were too low, but most took the money and moved away.

Those houses stood empty for a long time. The yards became overgrown with weeds, and the area began to decay.

Troy weighed the pros and cons. He decided to stay where he was, but he postponed plans to improve his house. Troy hoped there was still a fighting chance to reverse the downhill slide.