

Directions: *First Read-* Underline any specific details that help you understand the conditions in Appalachia.

Second Read- Look specifically at the lines you underlined. In the left hand column, write WHY the author included these details. What is he trying to SHOW about Appalachia?

Author's Purpose	Text Under Discussion: <u>Appalachia's War: The poorest of the poor struggle back</u>	Vocabulary
	<p>Sunday, November 26, 2000 By Diana Nelson Jones, Post-Gazette Staff Writer</p> <p>An introduction: Appalachia, a rugged swath of America hugging the mountains from Georgia to New York, has for generations been the symbol of aching poverty in a land of wealth and opportunity. But 35 years after President Johnson launched the War on Poverty from a simple porch in Appalachia, the region that claims part of Western Pennsylvania is climbing out of desperation. Bordering cities of unprecedented growth and dot-com millionaires, Appalachia is finally outgrowing its image of shacks and bare feet. On good roads, past Wal-Marts and in cozy bungalows, staff writer Diana Nelson Jones visited the new Appalachia and uncovered a story of re-birth.</p>	<p>unprecedented: without an example</p> <p>bungalows: 1 story home with a low roof</p>
	<p>INEZ, Ky. -- Thirty-six years ago, President Lyndon B. Johnson leapt over a gulleeful of water into Tommy Fletcher's yard along Route 3 in Inez, Ky. Photos show an entourage in the foreground of Fletcher's shack, where Johnson declared, "I have called for a national war on poverty. Our objective: total victory."</p> <p>The implication was clear: If this was war, Appalachia was ground zero, home to the poorest of the poor, the very definition of rural poverty. For nearly four decades, federal billions have poured into the region.</p> <p>The results, as you might expect, have been mixed. Appalachia has struggled toward prosperity and in most places has come a very long way. In others, you can still look around and say, "What war?"</p> <p>Four-lane crossroads sport national retail franchises, malls and hotels. Two-lane arteries pass tidy ranch houses and double-wide trailers lined in hollyhocks; pizza joints beside beauty shops beside tanning salons beside pretty white chapels; cinder-block stores that sell bait and pepper plants; cottage-like restaurants that specialize in hot dogs; and stands of pine that partially hide chalet-style subdivisions.</p>	<p>implication: significance</p> <p>rural: relating to the country; country life</p> <p>hollyhocks: type of flower</p> <p>chalet-style: houses inspired by European cottages</p>
	<p>Even down its narrowest roads and through its quietest hamlets, shacks these days aren't common. Some roads remain unpaved and some wreak havoc on your shocks, but they're as likely to lead to a cozy log lodge in the woods as to a peeling trailer surrounded by contorted lawn furniture.</p> <p>A majority of Appalachia is now middle class, and parts of the region are growing faster than the nation. Still, nothing has adequately replaced the loss of coal jobs, and the few urban areas are not large or vigorous enough to spawn much outward growth. The bulk of Appalachia remains small towns and hamlets where any job's a good job, there isn't much to do, and residents greet visitors warily, saying, "You musta got lost."</p>	<p>hamlet: small village</p> <p>contorted: twist in a violent manner</p> <p>urban: of or relating to a city</p>

	<p>There do remain places President Johnson would recognize. You can still see Tommy Fletcher sitting on his front porch in Inez, the somewhat addled overlord of a slope littered with roosters and soda cans.</p> <p>"His is a story of failure," says Herbie Smith, a Whitesburg, Ky. filmmaker. "There are plenty of those."</p>	<p>addled: rotten and confused</p>
	<p>But stories of transition better characterize today's Appalachia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The coal mines that paid Gary Ball \$50,000 a year in the '70s became the mines that didn't need him in the '90s. "It would have been so much easier to go on welfare," he says now, working as an \$18,000-a-year editor of the weekly Mountain Citizen in Inez, with two children in college. ■ Three days a week, Cuban-born pediatrician Isabel Pino sets up shop along rural roads across southwestern West Virginia. The blue van of the West Virginia Children's Health Project is the only doctor's office some rural children have ever known. "This van's wider than a lot of roads," Pino says. ■ Emma Fletcher -- no relation to Tommy -- is six years into moving off welfare after having fled an abusive marriage with a young child. Now, she is working full time and has just sent her daughter to college. Melanie, a 4.0 student, is the first in the family to attend. "'Better' is not going to just come along," Fletcher says. "You have to make better." 	
	<p>One in three Appalachians was poor in 1965. The poverty rate now closely shadows that of the nation at about one in 14. The percentage of high school graduates doubled, to 68 percent, by 1990. The number of counties originally considered "distressed" -- 219 -- has been cut in half.</p> <p>Yet despite the longest economic expansion in U.S. history during the 1990s, 111 Appalachian counties remain economically distressed -- one-fourth of the total.</p>	

After reading the article above, looking through the pictures, and reading "When I was Young in the Mountains," think about what you have learned about life in Appalachia. In the space below, explain what life was like in Appalachia during the 1960s. Use TEXT EVIDENCE from ALL 3 texts to support your answer.
