

Number each paragraph.

What does Engels mean by the “**non-possessing class**”?

Paraphrase the underlined sentence that explains where **slums** are located.

After reading paragraph 2, circle words that indicate the author’s tone about the “great towns.”

## The Great Towns

1 Meanwhile, let us proceed to a more detailed investigation of the position in which the social war has placed the **non-possessing class**. Let us see what pay for his work society does give the working-man in the form of dwelling<sup>1</sup>, clothing, food, what sort of subsistence<sup>2</sup> it grants those who contribute most to the maintenance of society; and, first, let us consider the dwellings.

2 Every great city has one or more **slums**, where the working-class is crowded together. True, poverty often dwells in hidden alleys close to the palaces of the rich; but, in general, a separate territory has been assigned to it, where, removed from the sight of the happier classes, it may struggle along as it can. These slums are pretty equally arranged in all the great towns of England, the worst houses in the worst quarters of the towns; usually, one- or two-storied cottages in long rows, perhaps with cellars used as dwellings, almost always irregularly built. These houses of three or four rooms and a kitchens form, throughout England, some parts of London excepted, the general dwellings of the working-class. The streets are generally unpaved, rough, dirty, filled with vegetable and animal refuse<sup>3</sup>, without sewers or gutters, but supplied with foul, stagnant<sup>4</sup> pools instead. Moreover, ventilation<sup>5</sup> is impeded by the bad, confused method of building of the whole quarter, and since many human beings here live crowded into a small space, the atmosphere that prevails in these working-men’s quarters may readily be imagined. Further, the streets serve as drying grounds in fine weather; lines are stretched across from house to house, and hung with wet clothing.

Let us investigate some of the slums in their order.... It is a disorderly<sup>6</sup> collection of tall, three- or four- storied houses, with narrow, crooked, filthy streets, in which there is quite as much life as in the great thoroughfares of the town, except that, here, people of the working-class only are to be seen. A vegetable market is held in the street, baskets with vegetables

<sup>1</sup> House, apartment, or another place of residence

<sup>2</sup> Financial help from the government

<sup>3</sup> Trash, debris, or waste

<sup>4</sup> Still, motionless, or stationary

<sup>5</sup> The movement of fresh air into a building

<sup>6</sup> Lacks organization and messy

What effect does this transition have on the reader?

What does the author mean when describing the “whirlpool of moral ruin”?

and fruits, naturally all bad and hardly fit to use obstruct the sidewalk still further, and from these, as well as from the fish-dealers' stalls, arises a horrible smell. The houses are occupied from cellar to garret<sup>7</sup>, filthy within and without, and their appearance is such that no human being could possibly wish to live in them. **But all this is nothing in comparison** with the dwellings in the narrow courts and alleys between the streets, entered by covered passages between the houses, in which the filth and tottering ruin surpass all description. Scarcely a whole window-pane can be found, the walls are crumbling, door-posts and window-frames loose and broken, doors of old boards nailed together, or altogether wanting in this thieves' quarter, where no doors are needed, there being nothing to steal. Heaps of garbage and ashes lie in all directions, and the foul liquids emptied before the doors gather in stinking pools. Here live the poorest of the poor, the worst paid workers with thieves and the victims of prostitution indiscriminately huddled together, the majority Irish, or of Irish extraction, and those who have not yet sunk in the **whirlpool of moral ruin** which surrounds them, sinking daily deeper, losing daily more and more of their power to resist the demoralising<sup>8</sup> influence of want, filth, and evil surroundings.

Summarize the author's main argument about living conditions in England during the Industrial Revolution.		
My summary:	My partner's summary:	Our summary:

<sup>7</sup> Top floor or attic of a house or apartment building  
<sup>8</sup> To lose confidence or feel helpless