

home.

by  
Sydney McNamara  
and  
Leila Sharabianlou

As a high school senior who has lived in the same house, with the same neighbors and the same friends my entire life, going away to college and leaving everything I know behind is a scary thought (although very exciting). I could never imagine my home being anywhere else. In the process of choosing where I'm going to be going to school in the fall, I am forced to consider where I would be comfortable living for the next, at least, 4 years. What could I bring to this new place to make it home to me? Or will the place I will be moving to and attending school never really become my home, and just become a place where I live and take classes? Will my home stay where my old life was? These thoughts prompted the question in my mind, what exactly is a home? Is home the place where you grew up? Is it reading your favorite book? Or is it the people you surround yourself with?

Leila Sharabianlou

In this documentary we will explore people's different concepts of home.

For me, the word home has always had strong feelings attached to it. When I was younger, I would get defensive about people calling my home “my dad’s house” or “my mom’s house.” I never really got what it meant to be “going home for the holidays” or even to be “home free.” To me home was stressful. I was constantly moving around and when Christmas came around there was always a pang of guilt inside me indicating that once again I had chosen one “home” over the other. Home was never a place for me.

I grew up on the Stanford campus where my step dad finished his PhD and floated between my dad’s various apartments (all with increasingly less furniture.) While my mom, my step dad, and I were at Stanford we lived in small grad-school complexes with furniture that we didn’t own. Nothing was really “home” per say, at least not in the traditional sense. I didn’t have a constant setting and so the connections I developed with my actual houses were never strong. I didn’t have the “perfect” family and I didn’t really ever think what I did have was good enough. So what is home?

William McNamara  
Age 4  
Los Altos, CA

Will lives with three half siblings. Both his mom and dad have children from previous marriages.





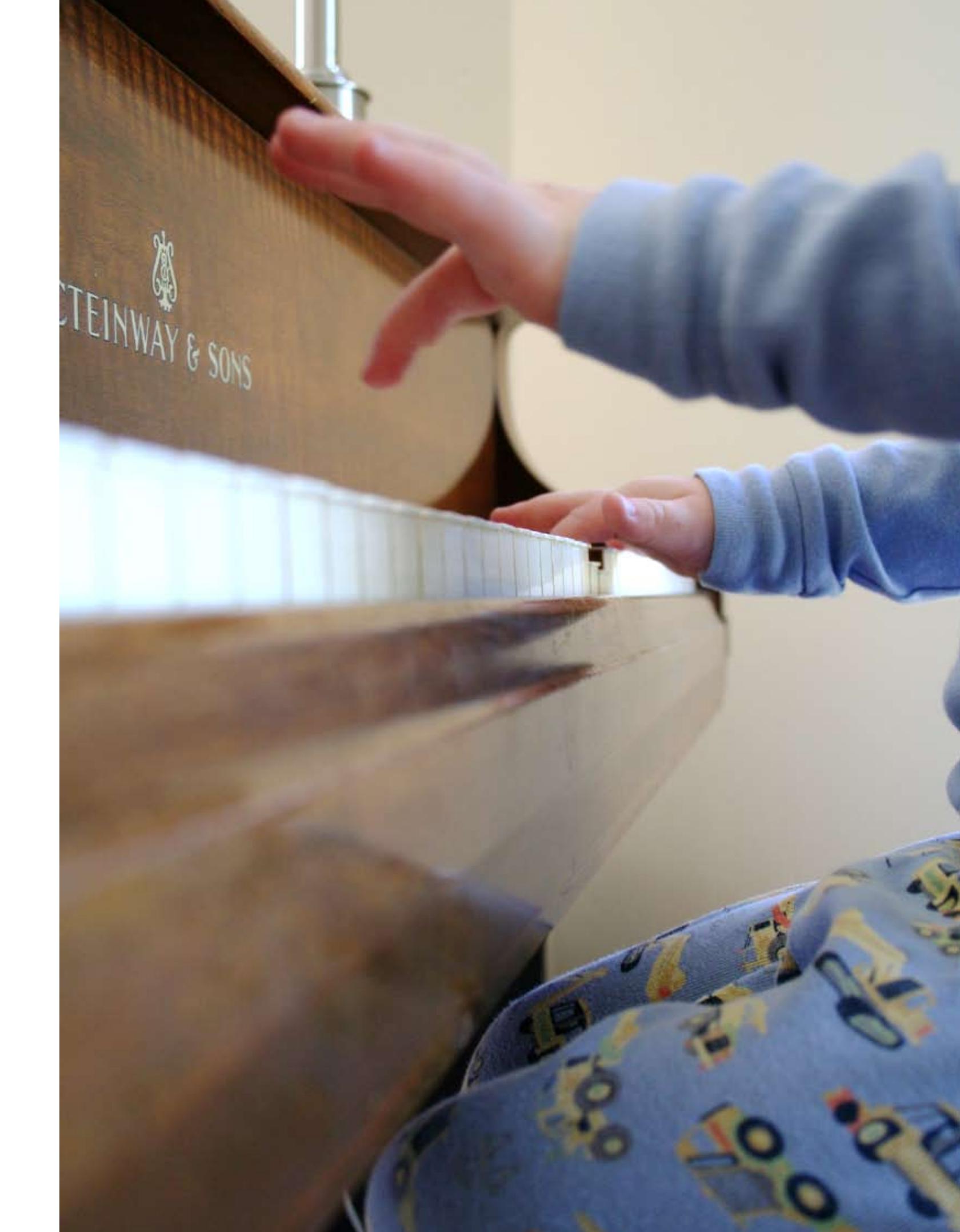






“Home is a special place  
where you live and you can’t  
take your home if you’re out  
somewhere.”



A close-up photograph of a young child's hands playing a Steinway & Sons piano. The child is wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and blue pajamas with a yellow and green vehicle pattern. The piano is dark wood with the Steinway & Sons logo and name visible on the fallboard. The child's right hand is positioned on the keys, while the left hand is resting on the piano's surface. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

STEINWAY & SONS



“If you have a little boy then there’s toys in your home.”









Peter Zdepski  
Age 6  
Mountain View, CA

The first person we interviewed was six-year-old Peter Zdepski. Peter lives with his parents, three sisters, and an au-paire from Poland. To Peter, the answer to our question was obvious, and he was confused when we tried to dig deeper. Home to Peter was as simple as his toys, his house, and his mom. We asked Peter to imagine that he had moved to a new house, and asked him what would make that new unknown place home....

Peter's response was immediate,  
"All my toys."

“When someone says home I think about my mom.”





We also asked Peter where he would live if given the chance to live anywhere in the entire world. His answer again was immediate,

“In a giant mansion because then I’d be rich and have lots and lots and lots of toys.”











Peter's Home in Mountain View, CA



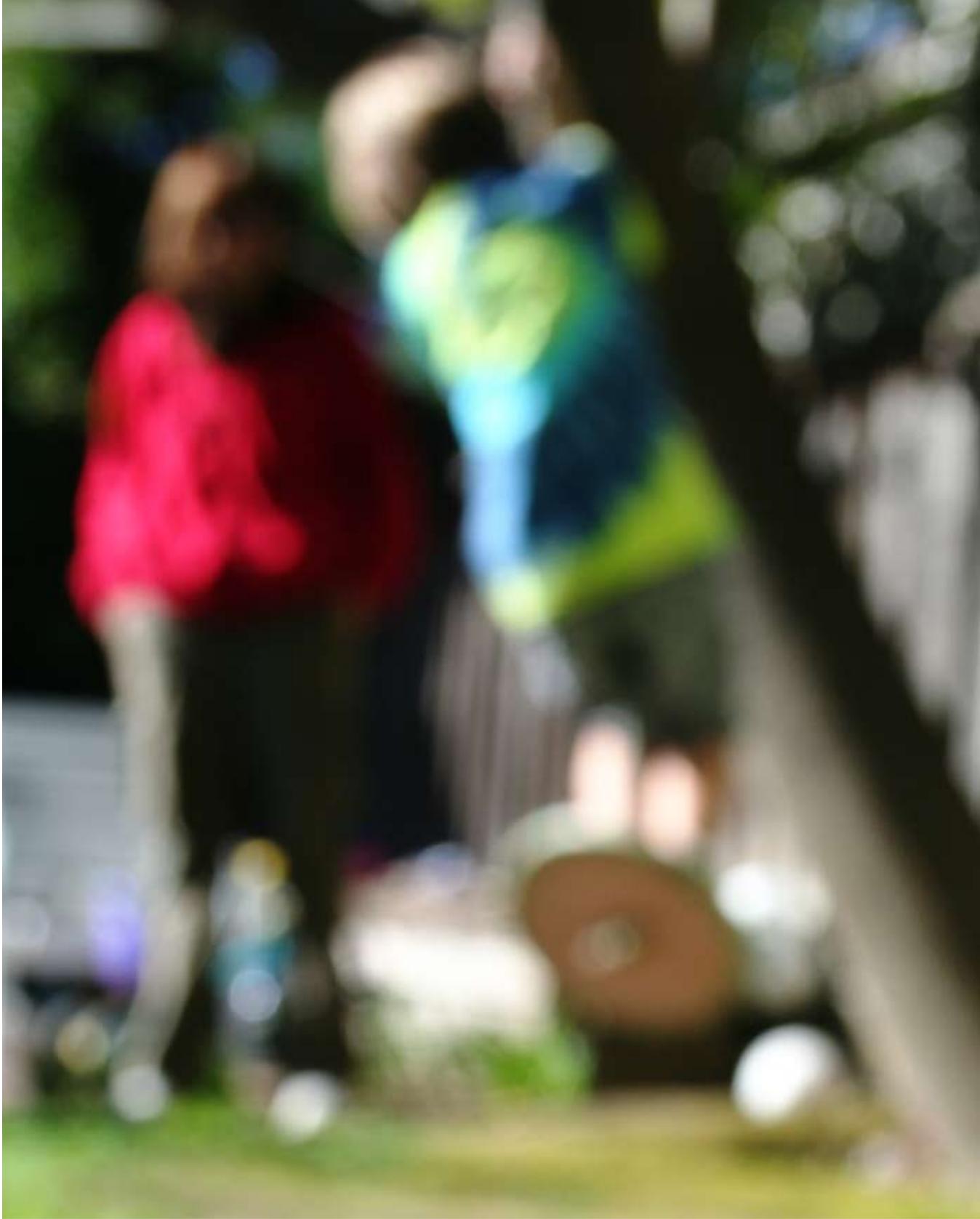












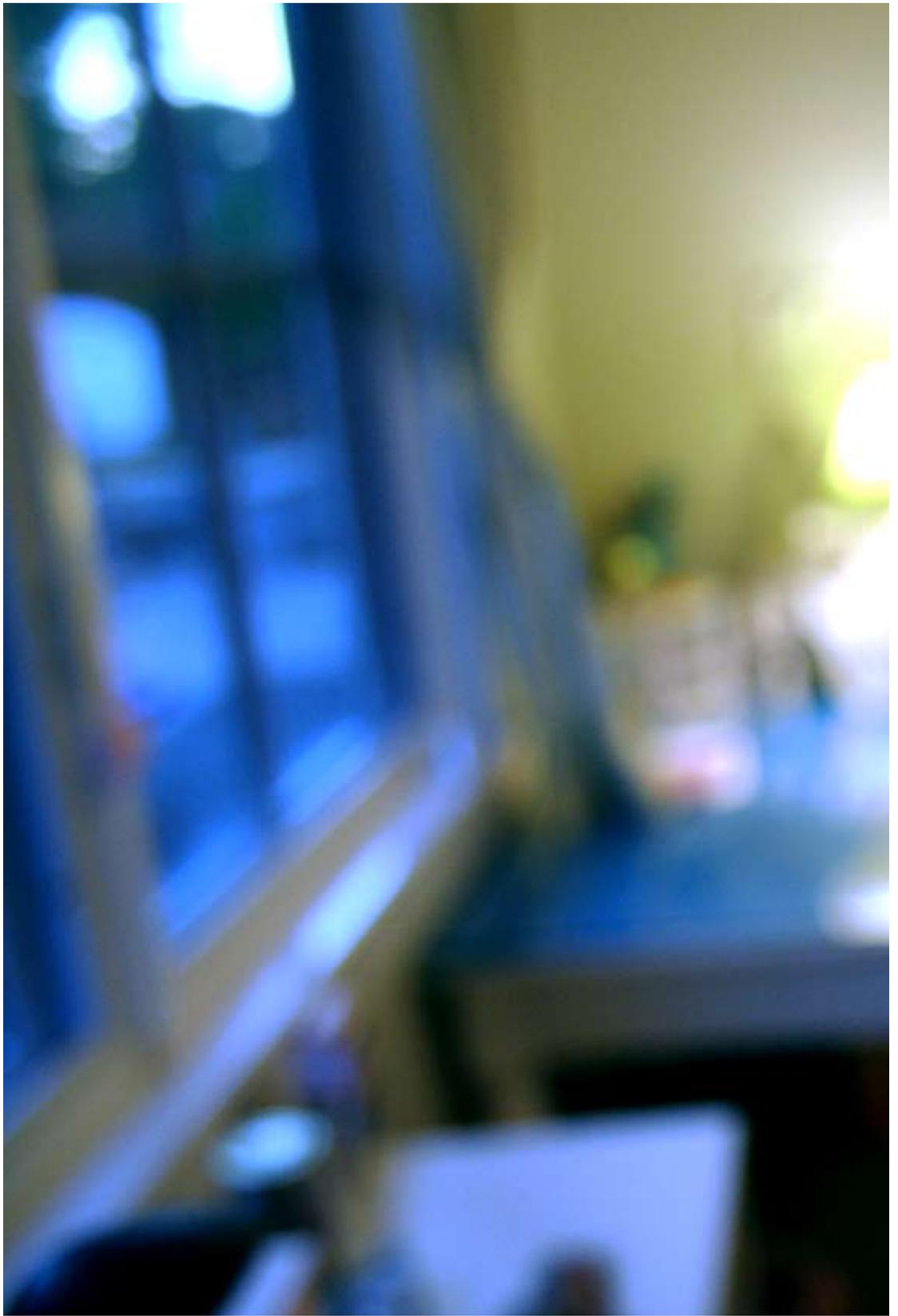




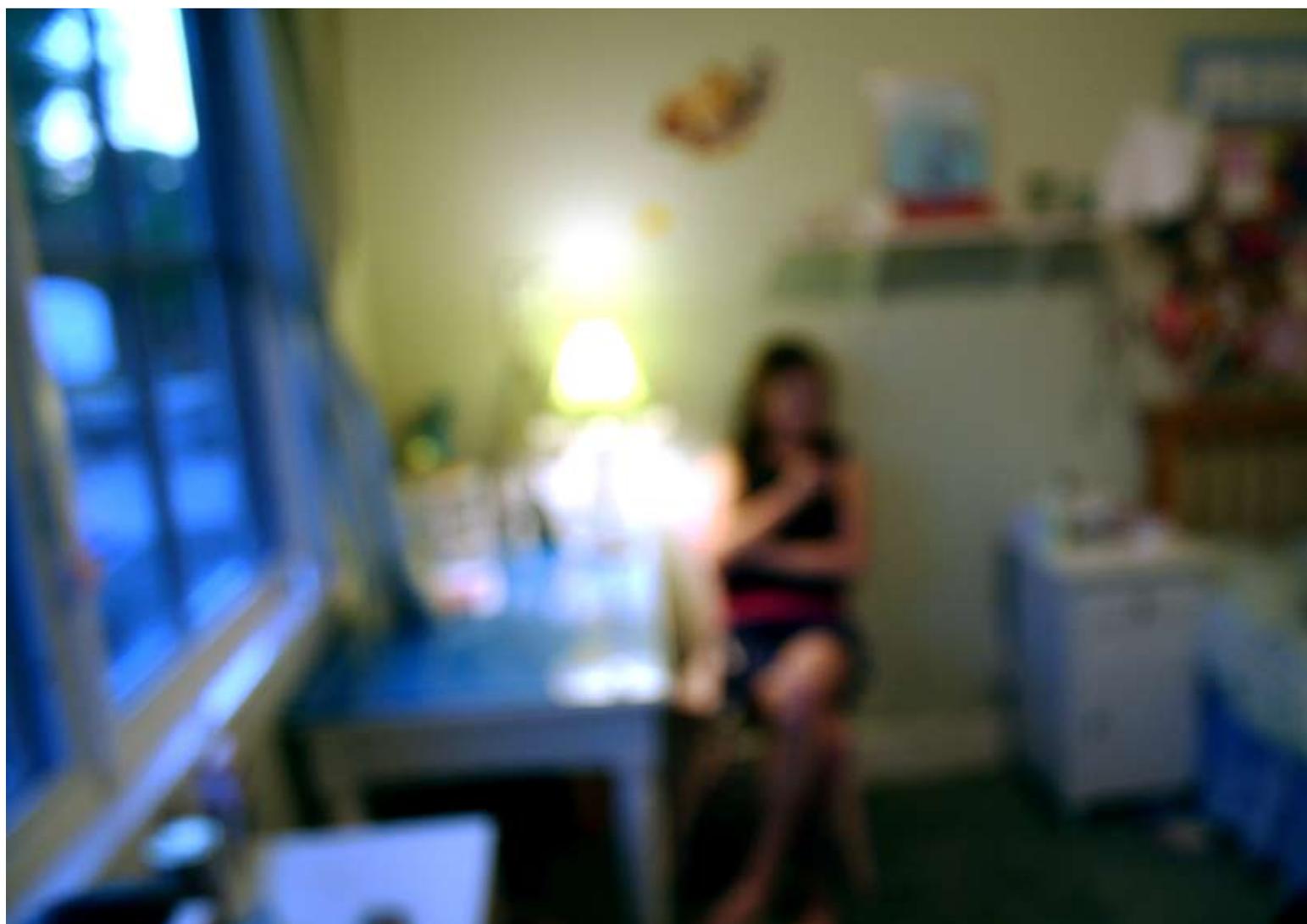


Kate Thomas  
Age 11  
Los Altos, CA

Kate's parents divorced when she was three. She splits her time between her mom's house in Los Alots and her dad's in San Francisco.



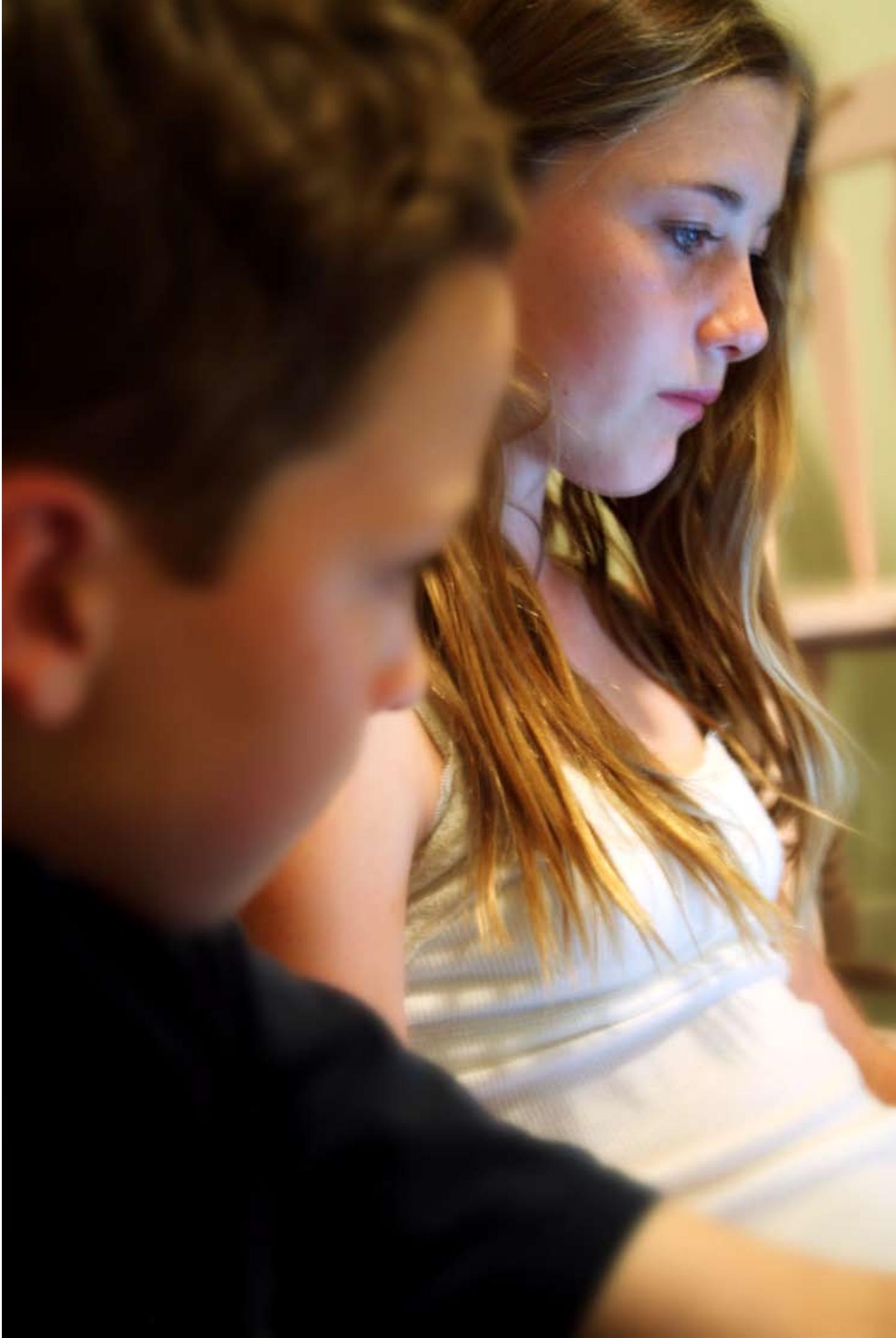
“Home to me is really my mom’s house, my friends are here. My life is here.”







“I guess having a twin has helped define home for me. John has always been a constant in my life.”



John Thomas  
Age 11  
Los Altos, CA









“Having Kate hasn’t necessarily defined home for me. We lead very separate lives...”





Home is where one starts from.

T.S. Eliot