

## Home – My Favorite Place to Be

The most special place to me is not a large or fancy structure. It's actually quite small compared to some standards. There are four exterior walls, two doors, and several windows. The outside is rather plain, with few noticeable details.

Beyond the exterior door of this small structure is where the details begin. The interior offers an immediate welcome, with cozy details. There is a small leather sofa in the corner, dining table with chairs, lamps, and other furnishings. The kitchen, though small in space, has brightly colored dishes, rugs, and an over-the-sink window with a view of the pond and wildlife. There are plenty of photographs, pops of color in the form of pillows and blankets, and many much-loved books.

This place is the perfect blend of warmth and comfort. The setting has a friendly feeling and is one where I often curl up with a soft blanket, favorite book, and one of two fluffy residents named Stella Jane or Cupcake.

This place might not seem special to many, but it is truly a safe haven for me. In fact, I think of it as a familiar friend, the place where I can be my most authentic self. I have celebrated many great times here and weathered a few bad ones. It's the place where I have experienced many things, from milestones and celebrations to heartaches and everything in between. Memories, laughter, tears, family dinners, move nights, and unforgettable moments.

It's where the past has been created, the present is still taking place, and the future is yet to come. Planning, preparing, and dreaming inside this place. But it's so much more than a place. It's the most special place where both people and love reside. It's full of

fleeting experiences, where happy times collide with bad times. But it's the place where my heart always feels comfortable, sometimes vulnerable, and always real. It's where I am safe, secure, protected, cherished, and always loved.

This small structure is my fortress, my safe haven, and where troubles fade away. It's where I snuggle my furry family and my loved ones. It is truly the place where I feel so very, very loved. It's my shelter from storms, all sorts of storms. As I grow older, I realize this place is not really a place at all. It's more of a feeling.

As Laura Ingalls Wilder said it so perfectly, "Home is the nicest word there is."