Texts for Ladder of Inquiry Discussion

1. Neutral Text – scientific paper

Biologists have been concerned for many years about the future of alpine plant communities because of changing conditions related to global climate change. Alpine ecosystems are acknowledged to be among the most vulnerable to warming, changes in precipitation, and other effects of increasing greenhouse gasses. Research on alpine plant communities has increased dramatically as a result of these concerns.

(Capers, scientific paper in Rhodora, January 2025)

2. Sea Glass excerpt

…After Sexton lost the one job and finally found another (far lesser) one, Honora tried to tell her husband to let the house go. It drained them of every cent, she said. There was precious little left over for food – often nothing at all for clothes. She could move into Ely and share an apartment with him, but Sexton wouldn't hear of giving up the house.

He worked, he said, to hold on to the one thing that hadn't yet been taken from him. And Honora understood finally, in a way she had not at first, that Sexton's manhood was more wedded to the house than it was to her. That something inside him would be irretrievably lost if he failed to keep the house that he had ruined himself to buy.

(from Sea Glass*, by Anita Shreve)*

3. Trouble in France

"Paris – As thousands of high school students took to the streets last week in a collective cry of youthful anger, President Emmanuel Macron of France traveled to a navy ship off the coast of Brittany. From the deck, he watched the firing of a new ballistic missile from a French nuclear-powered submarine. It was a telling display of Mr. Macron's priorities…"

(Mark Landler, The New York Times, 10/14/2026, p. A9)