**Auckland**

Auckland

your streets

are cold.

Auckland

multicultural

multiracial

city of the world.

Beneath

your respectability

a price has been paid.

There

is no housing crisis

unemployment

is not working

and

black is not white.

Auckland

hungry people

eat out of rubbish bins

openly.

Auckland

supposed sedated

mental health clients

roam your streets

lost and unloved.

Auckland

a generation

of street people

are no longer

invisible.

Auckland

elderly beggars

leave their stench

of poverty and injustice.

A price has been paid

Auckland

your streets are cold.

Mua Strickson-Pua

Close Reading Questions

1. Write down three different groups of people living on the streets that are mentioned in the poem.
2. List at least three reasons why, according to the poem, people are forced to live on the streets in Auckland.
3. Match the words from the poem in Column A to the best synonym in Column B and write the matching pairs onto your paper.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Column A | Column B (jumbled up) |
| respectability | smell |
| crisis | wander |
| sedated | reputation |
| consumers | unseen |
| roam | emergency |
| invisible | drugged |
| stench | unfairness |
| injustice | clients |

4. The poem focuses on physical sensations such as cold and hunger. How are the streets ‘cold’ in an emotional way as well?

5. Answer the following questions

1. Two lines are repeated in the poem. What are they? Write them down.
2. Give a reason why you think the poet decided these lines were so important they should be drawn to our attention in this way.

6. The poet uses some of the jargon that council officials and politicians often use to describe social situations, for example, ‘housing crisis’ and ‘mental health clients’. He contrasts this language with more direct descriptions such as ‘hungry people’, ‘elderly beggars’ and ‘black is not white’. How does this contrast point out the difference between what people say what is really happening on the streets?