Tough Words

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage. Use a dictionary if needed to answer the questions.

Elaine often described herself as thrifty. But “thrifty” was hardly an adequate word to describe her condition. She simply refused to spend any money at all. On anything. She did not eat, unless someone bought a meal to sustain her. She did not repair anything about the house, such that her accommodations had become appalling. And she had been wearing the same clothes for thirty years. Her family did not want to humiliate her by calling attention to her situation, but they did insist that she begin therapy.

1. If something is adequate, is it suitable or enough?
2. The word sustain has several meaning. Write the one that applies here.
3. What does appalling mean?
4. What does humiliate mean?
5. What are a few examples of therapies? Which do you think might apply to Elaine?