Address the What, How, and Why

In this passage, Thoreau calls for us to lead a simpler existence by contrasting his key concepts in parallel structure. He encourages his readers to "strip" their lives to the essentials, and then build a spiritual foundation of “*beautiful living.*” His use of parallelism and repetition is clear when he claims that “*the walls must be stripped, and our lives must be stripped”* which reinforces the difficulty and the depth of the shedding, both material and emotional, that must take place. Just as the furniture of our minds must be dusted, so too must the walls of our intellectual homes be stripped to make way for something greater. His parallel use of “*beautiful housekeeping”* and “*beautiful living”* reiterates the value of a spiritual, not a material, foundation. His final parallel structure, “*no house and no housekeeper*,” seems to indicate that the material objects in our life constitute a barrier to such a transformation.