



## Pre-Reading Activities

### A: Short Discussion

Work in pairs and discuss these statements:

- \* You should always look after yourself because no-one else is going to care for you in the same way.
- \* You should always treat other people with kindness and consideration. Don't expect anything in return.

## Reading Activities

### A: Comprehension

Read **Article One** and find the answers to these questions:

1. Where is the article about?
2. What did the man find?
3. Where did he find it?
4. What did he do with it?

#### Article One

## Boston homeless man finds bag stuffed with cash, turns it in

Mon, Sep 16, BOSTON (Reuters) - A Boston homeless man turned over to police a backpack stuffed with nearly \$42,000 worth of cash and travelers checks shortly after he found it at a shopping mall, police said on Monday.

"The Good Samaritan could only provide officers with his name and the address of the shelter where he currently lives," according to a police press release.

The man, identified by police as Glen James, found the bag Saturday evening at the South Bay Mall in the Boston

neighborhood of Dorchester.

He gave it to police who were passing, who [quickly] found the owner - a Chinese national whose passport was also in the bag, police said. The owner's name was not released.

James was given a special citation from Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis on Monday afternoon "for his extraordinary show of character and honesty," the police department said.

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**Glossary:** *citation* - to praise someone officially for having done something special

### B: Sequencing

Put these events in the order in which they occurred using **Article One**. Write 1 -5 in the boxes.

The man gave the bag to the police.

The Police Commissioner congratulated the homeless man for his bravery.

The police found the owner.

A homeless man found a bag on Saturday night.

He opened it and saw it was full of money.

### C: What Do You Think

Work in pairs and say how you feel about what the man did?

Which of these statements do you agree with?

- The homeless man should have kept the money. Looking after yourself is the most important thing.
- He did the correct thing. We need to be honest, even when there is no reward for us.
- This story makes me feel good.
- This story makes me feel sad.
- This story makes me feel \_\_\_\_\_ (your own idea).



## D: Understanding A Headline

Look at the headline of **Article Two**. Explain its meaning using your own words.

### Article Two

## Selfless act paying off for Boston homeless man

Wed Sep 18, BOSTON (Reuters) - More than \$68,000 in donations have poured in from people around the country for a Boston homeless man who turned over to police a backpack stuffed with cash that he had found outside a shopping mall.

The man, Glen James, landed in the spotlight on Monday when Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis lauded him for turning over the bag containing \$42,000, which was eventually returned to its owner.

James' act inspired a man in Virginia to set up a fund to help him "change his life." By midday on Wednesday, the online fund had brought in \$68,012 from 2,698 donors, many of whom left messages of praise for James, including: "Such a beautiful person. Reduced me to tears," and "We have a lot to learn from you."

James, who told local media he is in his mid-50s and cannot work because of an inner-ear condition that affects his balance, has been living at a Boston-area homeless shelter

and panhandles during the day.

He gave it to police who were passing, who [quickly] found the owner - a Chinese national whose passport was also in the bag, police said. The owner's name was not released.

James was given a special citation from Boston Police Commissioner Ed Davis on Monday afternoon "for his extraordinary show of character and honesty," the police department said.

Ethan Whittington, a 27-year-old marketing firm employee from Virginia, said he set up the fund because he was inspired by James' action. He also said that he had begun talking with James on Tuesday on how the donated money would be used.

"I just found James' story to be inspiring," he said. "We're so inundated with negative news all the time. James gives hope to people and lets them know not all things in the world are bad."

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## E: Finding Numbers

Find these numbers in **Article Two**. Write a description of why each number is in the article.

68,000

42,000

2,968

50s

27

## Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

### A: Vocabulary Extension

When you are homeless, you have nowhere to live. The suffix '-less' means **without**.

Here are some words with this suffix. They are scrambled. Look at the meanings and unscramble the words.

- rafeless - *not afraid*
- lfseless - *thinking more of the needs of others than your own needs*
- thwroless - *having no value*
- stpoless - *very clean*
- eracless - *not giving enough attention and thought to something*
- hepoless - *having no ability or skill*
- ecspleless - *unable to speak, especially because you are feeling very angry etc.*

### B: Language

Read these rules about the **past simple** and the **past continuous**.

We use the past simple tense for things that began and ended in the past.

We use time words like **two years ago**, **last Monday** and **2011**.

*Last Saturday I lost my backpack. I left it at the shopping mall by mistake.*

We use the **past simple** tense with **stative verbs**, which are verbs that do not express an action, but a *state of mind* or *being*, e.g. **have (own)**, **be**, **think (believe)**, **know**, **dislike**, **need**, **owe**, **understand**, **wish** or **see**.

*He had a small backpack. I didn't have a home. I knew that other people felt sorry for me.*

We use **the past continuous** when talking about **TWO actions in the past**; one **continues** for a period, and the other starts and ends (past simple).

While I **was panhandling** on the street, someone **shouted** at me.

These sentences usually use **while** or **when**.

We also use it to talk about **TWO actions in the past**, both happening over a period and to talk about a **TEMPORARY** activity taking place over a limited time.

I **was looking** for the police and he **was looking** for his backpack. I **was living** at a shelter for homeless people when it **happened**.

Here is the story of Glen James. Put the words in the (brackets) in the **past simple tense** or **past continuous**.

I  (stand) outside the shopping mall when I  (see) a man with a backpack. Perhaps he  (wait) for someone, but after a while, he  (walk) into the mall. The strange thing was that he  (left) his backpack behind. I  (wait) for a while to see if he would return. When he  (not return), I  (decide) to walk over to the backpack. I  (open) the bag and  (saw) that it was full of cash and travelers checks. While I  (open) the bag, I worried that someone would ask me what I was doing.

I  (stand) there and  (think) about what to do. While I  (think) about this, people  (walk) past me. Two children  (fight) over a toy and their mother was telling them to behave. I  (decide) to take the bag to the police. It  (be) the right thing to do. I began walking through the mall. While I  (walk), I  (see) two police officers. I  (call) them and told them what I  (hold). They  (be) suspicious at first but then they  (realize) I was telling the truth.

When they  (open) the bag, they  (find) the owner's passport and ID. They  (ask) me for my name and address. I  (tell) them I was unemployed and I  (live) in a shelter because I  (not have) a home. I'm glad I turned the bag over to the police. I  (get) a citation and people rewarded me by sending me money. That's really nice, but most importantly, I'm glad I  (do) the right thing.

# TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

## Reading Activities

### A: Comprehension - Answers

1. Boston, 2. a backpack stuffed with cash and travelers checks, 3. in a shopping mall (South Bay Mall, Dorchester), 4. gave it to the police, 5. a Chinese national.

### B: Sequencing - Answers

3 The man gave the bag to the police.  
5 The Police Commissioner congratulated the homeless man for his bravery.  
4 The police found the owner.  
1 A homeless man found a bag on Saturday night.  
2 He opened it and saw it was full of money.

### D: Understanding A Headline - Sample Answer

The homeless man's unselfish act has now benefited him. He did something that did not help him but that action has now encouraged others to give money to a fund that will now help him.

### E: Finding Numbers - Sample Answers

68,000 - amount of money donated online to homeless man by people who admired what he had done  
42,000 - amount of money in bag  
2,968 - number of people who donated money online  
50s - age of homeless man  
27 - age of person who set up fund

## Post-Reading Activities

### A: Vocabulary Extension - Answers

fearless, selfless, worthless, spotless, careless, hopeless, speechless

### B: Language - Suggested Answers

I was standing outside the shopping mall when I saw a man with a backpack. Perhaps he was waiting for someone, but after a while, he walked into the mall. The strange thing was that he left his backpack behind. I waited for a while to see if he would return. When he didn't return, I decided to walk over to the backpack. I opened the bag and saw that it was full of cash and travelers checks. While I was opening the bag, I worried that someone would ask me what I was doing. I stood there and thought about what to do. While I was thinking about this, people were walking past me. Two children were fighting over a toy and their mother was telling them to behave. I decided to take the bag to the police. It was the right thing to do. I began walking through the mall. While I was walking, I saw two police officers. I called them and told them what I was holding. They were suspicious at first but then they realized I was telling the truth. When they opened the bag, they found the owner's passport and ID. They asked me for my name and address. I told them I was unemployed and I was living in a shelter because I didn't have a home. I'm glad I turned the bag over to the police. I got a citation and people rewarded me by sending me money. That's really nice, but most importantly, I'm glad I did the right thing.

