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.

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.

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 opened it and saw it was full of money.

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.

**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).
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.

- rateless - not afraid
- l!seless - 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
- ecspheless - 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 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.