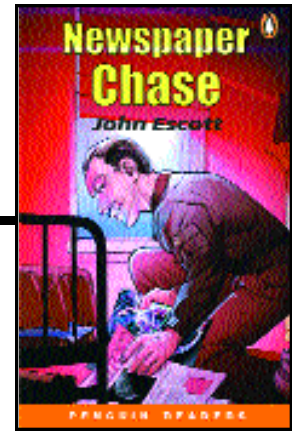


Penguin Readers Factsheets

Teacher's Notes

Newspaper Chase

by John Escott



Easystarts
Newspaper Chase

About Easystarts

Easystarts are Penguin Readers written to the lowest level in the Penguin Readers series. They are specially written originals, using 200 headwords and the simplest grammatical structures.

There are more than twenty titles to choose from across a range of styles and subject matter. All titles are in full colour, with carefully selected photos and/or artwork which helps to guide early learners of English. There is one page of activities at the back of each book.

Penguin Readers Easystarts provide pleasurable reading for all tastes at an appropriate level of difficulty.

Summary

Newspaper Chase is a fictional story about a thief who steals a very expensive painting from an art gallery. At the beginning of the story Harry, the thief, comes into the art gallery and cuts the painting from its frame. On the way out he knocks over a table and breaks a beautiful vase. He laughs because he has broken a very expensive object.

Harry goes back to the rooming house where he rents a room, and hides the painting under his bed. Janey, the daughter of the rooming house owner, thinks recycling is very important – she always recycles bottles and newspapers. On Friday in the story she collects old newspapers from the house, including the newspaper under Harry's bed! She puts them in a box to give to the recycling van.

Harry is not at home. He is trying to sell the painting. He comes home as Janey is putting the box in the van. He gets very worried and jumps into the van to find his newspaper. Janey sees a piece of broken glass in his shoe. It is the glass from the beautiful vase and Janey has seen the vase on the news on television. She calls the police and they come and take Harry away.

Background and themes

Justice: Harry does a bad thing. He steals a painting to make money for himself. He is very greedy and the public can no longer see and admire the painting. But at the end of the story justice prevails and he gets what he deserves.

Social responsibility: Janey knows that Harry has done something very wrong so she calls the police. She is socially responsible and helps get the painting back for everyone to admire.

Responsibility for the environment: recycling is very important. Without it the world's natural resources will eventually run out. It is not good to waste anything that can be recycled.

Communicative activities

The following teacher-led activities cover the same sections of text as the exercises at the back of the Reader.

BEFORE YOU READ

- 1 Students look at the front of the book. Ask them the following questions:
What is the man doing?
Where is he?
Why is he looking at the newspaper?

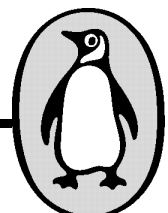
AFTER YOU READ

- 1 Show students the pictures on the following pages. How are the characters feeling?
page 2 – Harry
page 4 – Harry
page 7 – Harry
page 10 – Jenny
page 13 – the men in the recycling truck
page 14 – Harry
- 2 Ask students: You win 1 million pounds. What do you want to buy? A painting? A boat?

Extra words

There are twenty extra words, in addition to the 200 headwords, used in each Easystart title. The extra words used in this title are highlighted in question 1 at the back of the Reader. They are:

art gallery box break chase dollar frame glass jump
rooming house million painting piece recycling
remember reporter reward thief thousand truck vase



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Student's activities

ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK

- 1 Look at the front of the book. Think about the title of the book (*Newspaper Chase*). What does it mean?

ACTIVITIES WHILE READING THE BOOK

Pages 1–3

- 1 Write the correct word in the sentences below:
art galleries thief breaks million frame vase dollar
(a) Harry takes the painting from its _____.
(b) American money is the _____.
(c) I like paintings. I often go to _____.
(d) Harry is a _____.
(e) The beautiful _____ is blue.
(f) I have a lot of money. I buy paintings for one _____ dollars.
(g) Harry _____ the vase into pieces.
- 2 Answer the questions:
(a) What time is it when Harry goes to the art gallery?
(b) How does Harry see the painting in the dark?
(c) What does Harry take from his coat, when he takes the painting from its frame?
(d) What colour is the beautiful vase?
(e) Why does Harry smile?

Pages 4–7

- 1 Write the correct words in the sentences below:
rooming house thousand reporter painting piece truck
(a) The building is one _____ years old.
(b) Harry tries to get money for the _____.
(c) The recycling _____ comes on Fridays.
(d) I have a room in a _____.
(e) I am a _____ for a newspaper.
(f) I like this cake, can I have a big _____ please.
- 2 Are the questions right or wrong?
(a) Harry puts the painting in the kitchen.
(b) Mrs Allen and Janey hear Harry come home.
(c) Janey thinks recycling is important.
(d) The vase is in a thousand pieces now.
(e) Harry wants fifty-five thousand dollars for the painting?

Pages 8–11

- 1 Write the correct word in the sentences below:
recycling chases box jumps shoe
(a) Janey puts the newspapers into a _____.
(b) Janey is looking at Harry's _____.
(c) Janey _____ bottles and newspapers.
(d) Harry _____ after the recycling truck.
(e) Harry _____ into the recycling truck.
- 2 Answer the questions:
(a) Why does Janey look for old newspapers?
(b) Where does Janey see the newspaper in Harry's room?
(c) What colour is Janey's recycling box?
(d) What are the men from the recycling truck doing?
(e) How many newspapers are in the truck?
(f) How old is Harry's newspaper?

Pages 12–15

- 1 Write the correct word in the sentences below:
glass remember angry reward
(a) I am one of the men from the recycling truck. Aman is in my truck. I am very _____.
(b) She is telling the police about the thief. Maybe she can get a _____.
(c) I can't _____ his name.
(d) The vase breaks into a hundred pieces of _____.
- 2 Answer the questions:
(a) Where does Janey see the piece of blue glass?
(b) What is Harry's family name?
(c) Who does Janey talk to on the telephone?
(d) How are the men in the recycling truck?
(e) How many policemen arrive?
(f) What can Janey buy with the reward?

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING THE BOOK

- 1 Work with a partner. Look at the pictures in the book. Tell your partner the story again. Look at the pictures, not the words. You tell the first piece of the story, your partner can tell the second piece.
- 2 Do you recycle? What do you recycle? Do you think recycling is important? Why?

