Newspaper Chase

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Summary

Newspaper Chase is a fictional story about a thief who steals a very expensive painting. Harry, the thief, comes into an art gallery and steals the painting. On the way out, he breaks a beautiful vase.

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 Fridays, she collects old newspapers, including the newspaper under Harry's bed. She puts them in a box to give to the recycling truck.

Harry sees Janey giving the box to one of the men in the recycling truck. When he jumps into the truck to find his newspaper, Janey sees a piece of broken glass in his shoe. It is the glass from the beautiful vase which Janey has seen on the news on television. She calls the police and they take Harry away.

Background and themes

Justice: At the end of the story, justice prevails and the thief is arrested.

Social responsibility: As Janey sees something wrong, she phones the police.

Responsibility for the environment: Recycling is important, as it helps save the planet's resources.

Discussion activities

Pages 1–7

Before reading

1 **Discuss:** Have students look at the cover and predict what the book is about. Guide them with these questions.
Is this a detective story? A love story? What is the man doing? Why? What's his job? Where is he? Why is he looking at the newspaper?

While reading

2 **Discuss:** Have the students describe Harry and complete the chart with information they can find or imagine as they read on.

Name	
Nationality	
Age	
Description	

Pages 10–13

After reading

3 **Discuss:** Divide students into groups and have them make a list of key words (or a mindmap) to remember this part of the story.
Start by asking students if "room" is an important word in this part. Compare it with "newspaper." Students can make their list and then share all the lists.

4 **Role play:** Ask students to look at the picture on page 12. Have them write the conversation between Harry and the truck men and between Janey and Harry. Then they role play the conversations.

Pages 16–19

After reading

5 **Write:** Have the students write about Harry. Students can include full name, age, physical description, family and daily routines. They can invent information they have not got and refer back to the chart they have completed above. These questions can help:
Where is he from? What colour eyes does he have? What colour is his hair? What's his job? What time does he get up every day? What's his favorite food?

6 **Role play:** Students write the conversation between Janey and the police. Then they role play it.

7 **Pair work:** Student A chooses a picture. Student B has to discover which picture A has selected. He or she can ask only five questions.

8 **Artwork:** Create a new cover for the book. Students first decide on the elements they should include in the new cover. A display can be made with all the students' contributions.

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