

Franklin Jr./Sr High School Reading Article

Kids Learn It's Easy to Help Others Starting with a Pencil

Reading Strategy for the Article: Students will take turns reading aloud. Mark the text and write in the margins as you read.

540L

Instructions: COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS AND WRITE NOTES in the margin box. This requires reading of the article more than once.

Step 1: Skim the article using these symbols as you read:

(+) agree, (-) disagree, (*) important, (!) surprising, (?) wondering

Step 2: Number the paragraphs. **Read** the article **carefully** and **make notes in the margin**.

Notes should include:

- Comments that show that you **understand** the article. A summary or statement of the main idea of important sections may serve this purpose.
- Questions you have that show what you are **wondering** about as you read
- Notes that differentiate between **fact** and **opinion**.
- Observations about how the **writer's strategies** (organization, word choice, perspective, support) and choices affect the article.

Step 3: A final quick read noting anything you may have missed during the first two reads.

Your margin notes will be assessed by your teacher along with your answers to the questions.

Kids Learn It's easy to hHelp Others, Starting with a Pencil

WAYNE, N.J. — Here in the United States, people throw away a lot of pencils. Many are never used. They lie forgotten in drawers and backpacks. Some roll around classroom floors.

Things are very different in many parts of the world. In some poor countries a pencil is a rare and treasured thing.

Kyle VanDerVelden is a 16-year-old junior at Wayne Hills High School. One day in school, he noticed janitors sweeping up lost pencils. He was very bothered that pencils are wasted here when people in other countries need them badly.

He knew kids in some parts of the world are very poor. Many have not spent much time in school. He decided he wanted to get pencils and pens to those kids. Having something to write with would help them to learn.

Kyle set out to find a way to help. "I just decided there was definitely something that I could do," he said.

Making A Plan To Do Something

Kyle asked around about groups he could volunteer with. He found Kim Oppenheimer. She runs the group Right-to-Write. Her group sends pens and pencils to people around the world.

He decided he could collect unused pencils and pens. Then, he would work with Oppenheimer to send them where they are most needed.

The idea behind Oppenheimer's group is simple. People give her pencils. She packs about 200 pencils into a bag and seals it. Then she gives the bags to travelers heading to poor countries. The travelers deliver the bags of pencils to the people who need them.

Oppenheimer has helped Kyle send pencils to many people in other countries. So far he has gathered thousands from schools, businesses and churches. Some are used, but most are new.

Notes on my thoughts, reactions and questions as I read.

Franklin Jr./Sr High School Reading Article

So Many Boxes Of Pencils!

Earlier this month, Kyle went to an elementary school near him to pick up pencils and pens. He left with boxes and boxes. They were crammed with pens, pencils, crayons and magic markers.

He collected 3,790 writing tools in just one month.

His pencils have reached kids in countries like Ethiopia, Panama and Haiti.

It "works so easily," Oppenheimer said. If someone is traveling overseas she gives them a bag of pencils. "You can fit that bag into your suitcase," she said.

Anyone Can Give Pens And Pencils

Oppenheimer came up with the idea when she traveled to Peru in 2005. She had taken clothing to give away. However, she saw that people really wanted her pen. "Even the nurses wanted my pen," Oppenheimer said.

Oppenheimer began her group three years after her Peru trip. So far, she has collected more than 80,000 pencils.

Kyle contacted the group last summer. He was "super interested" in helping, Oppenheimer said.

The teen collects pencils from businesses, churches and schools. Kyle visits schools and tells kids that students just like them need pencils.

The Lesson Of Helping Others

The kids who gave pencils learned a lot. They learned that even something like a pencil can be precious for some people.

Christopher Bacchioni is a fifth-grader at the school. He said he gave pencils to "help people in need."

He can imagine children "being happy because they can write now." They "don't have just one pencil to use all year," he said. "They can have a few."

Notes on my thoughts, reactions and questions as I read.



Franklin Jr./Sr High School Reading Article

Quiz

- 1 Which sentence is the BEST summary of the article?
- (A) People throw away pencils and pens every day in schools, businesses, homes and other places.
 - (B) A teenager named Kyle has learned that the best places to collect new and used writing tools are places like schools, businesses and churches.
 - (C) A teenager named Kyle works with a volunteer group to collect new and used writing tools and sends them to people in poor countries.
 - (D) Pens and pencils are good things to collect because they are small enough to be packed easily into a suitcase.
2. Which paragraph from the section "Making A Plan To Do Something" BEST supports the idea that Kyle has helped many people around the world get pencils?
3. Which sentence from the introduction [paragraphs 1-6] BEST helps explain why Kyle decided to collect pencils?
- (A) One day in school, he noticed janitors sweeping up lost pencils.
 - (B) He was very bothered that pencils are wasted here when people in other countries need them badly.
 - (C) He knew kids in some parts of the world are very poor.
 - (D) "I just decided there was definitely something that I could do," he said.
4. According to the section "Anyone Can Give Pens And Pencils," which sentence describes something that Kyle does when he goes to schools?
- (A) He tells students about Oppenheimer's trip to Peru.
 - (B) He tells students about the number of pencils Oppenheimer has collected.
 - (C) He talks to students about why he is collecting pencils for students in other countries.
 - (D) He suggests that students should go to businesses to collect pencils.