

NEWS BREAK

Article: Women helping homeless women

Section: NW SUNDAY, B1

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, May 13, 2018** of The Seattle Times print replica for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions.

You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a small group or larger, class discussion.

Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.

Standards:

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.1

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

Objectives:

Students will read an article about the adoption of tiny house villages in the Seattle area to house homeless women. They'll discuss rules the residents should have to follow in order to live there. They'll talk about the building trades and why only 10% are women. They'll discuss how it feels to give and receive service from others.

Pre-Reading Discussion:



- What do you think the article will be about? Are there clues in the pictures? What can you infer?

Vocabulary Building:

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A **context clue** is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

“I’ve never really thought about it, but I think it’s just because it wasn’t in my **purview**,” she says. “But I like doing it.”

Write your guess and then look up the definition and write it below your guess. How close did you come to the correct definition?

Purview Guess:

Purview Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. They're two of about 40 volunteers — mostly women from the building trades — joyfully toiling Saturday at Seattle's first tiny house village designated exclusively for women experiencing what problem?
2. For Torres and the other tradeswomen working at the city-owned property off 15th Avenue Northwest, the project is unique in their professional lives: For once, they're not the only women on a construction site. What makes a project like this stand out to them?
3. Apart from the symbolism, a female-dominated construction site is a _____ for women new to the field or interested in it, she said. Too often, women entering construction trades are handed a broom instead of a hammer.
4. Those who have fought their way through discrimination, harassment and worse to find a place in the high-paid trades are still only a fraction — less than _____ percent — of the construction workforce in Washington state, said Nichols, one of the region's foremothers working for decades to try to change that.
5. Washington does better than the national average. Why?
6. The Whittier Heights Village for Women consists of _____ cabins arranged around a gravel lot sandwiched between the high wall of a new apartment building and a bank parking lot. An old concrete building on the site that used to hold Seattle City Light electrical equipment is being converted by volunteers to a community kitchen, laundry and shower facility.
7. Who will the village house? Where will most come from?
8. It is a low-barrier site. What does this mean?
9. How much does each cabin cost to build?

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay Questions:

- How do you feel about building tiny homes for homeless people? Do you think it will help end homelessness? Why or why not?
- Should people that are doing drugs be offered housing? Why or why not?
- Should there be rules they need to follow in order to live there? What should the rules be?
- So you think more women will become interested in the building trades? Why or why not?
- How does giving service to others make you feel?
- How does it feel to receive service from others?
- How do you think the people will feel who are gifted one of these tiny homes?

It is not without controversy. Across an alley to the east are the back fences and garages of single-family homes. "There are some people that are opposed to it," said John Syverson, LIHI facilities manager. But given

the amount of services planned, “we don’t anticipate any problems at this point,” he said.

- Would you or your parents mind if your neighborhood adopted a tiny village like the once in the article? Why or why not?

News Break is posted to the Web on Monday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the print replica for your class, please [register on-line](#) or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.
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Newsbreak Answer Key: May 13, 2018

Pre-Reading Discussion:

Answers will vary

Vocabulary Building:

Purview: range of experience or thought. "Social taboos meant that little information was likely to come within the purview of women generally"

Comprehension Answers:

1. Homelessness
2. "Projects like this, we really fall in love with," said Torres, a union electrician who owns Q Generation Electric with her business partner Deb McGowan. "This is our work. We want to help women. We're into providing transitional living and giving people second chances. And it's just nice to be in a place where most of these people are women helping other women. There's nothing more powerful than that."

Melinda Nichols, a carpenter since 1972 and longtime board member at the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI), which is developing and will operate this and other tiny house villages around the city, thought a village specifically for women should be built by women.

3. Confidence-builder
4. 10%
5. Thanks to programs designed to actively recruit women into the field, like the Washington Women in Trades career fair, which ran for its 39th year Friday at Seattle Center. That's where Torres, a mother of five, got her entry into an electrical apprenticeship 15 years ago.

Another program, ANEW — Apprenticeship and Non-Traditional Employment for Women — began here in 1980, the first of its kind in the nation.

6. 16 cabins
7. The village will house single women, same-sex couples, pregnant and postpartum women, seniors and women with pets. Most will come to the village directly from unsanctioned tent camps and other particularly vulnerable states of homelessness.
8. This means residents will be allowed in regardless of whether they're using drugs. Access to the village is controlled, and it will be staffed by a security guard 24 hours a day.

A case manager will work there 40 hours a week to help people transition to permanent housing and find health care and employment.

9. For 2,500 bucks you actually put a roof over a person's head," she says. "They're safe. They've got a door. They've got a lock. They've got heat."

Discussion Questions (small/large groups), Journal Prompts or Essay

Questions: Answers will vary