NEWS BREAK

Article: Carson knows about homelessness, and he’s vowed to fight it in Seattle

Section: SPORTS, C9

Sunday’s News Break selects an article from Sunday, November 11, 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 learn about ROOTS and how the program serves homeless young adults in Seattle. They will learn the ties Carson has to homelessness. They'll discuss gratitude and why that mindset is so important in life. Students will take about social status as a professional athlete in America. They’ll talk about how he’s using that to harness and financially help ROOTS. Students will also talk about the roles of professional athletes and the fact that they make millions. While some athletes set up organizations and help those in need, many others don’t. They’ll discuss why they all don’t contribute back to society like this. They’ll also talk about if they’d give back if they made millions a year. What organizations or charities would they support and why?
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.

“Carson, meanwhile, lives and works in Seattle — where tents are pitched on street corners and beneath underpasses, constant evidence of a homeless crisis staining his second home.”

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

Crisis Guess:

Crisis Definition:

Comprehension Questions:

1. That’s why the second-year Seahawk arrived at an event space at Magnuson Park, on the lip of Lake Washington, a few minutes shy of 6 p.m. last Friday night. Carson came to support ROOTS — “Rising Out of the Shadows.” What is ROOTS? What ages do they serve?
2. More to the point, what two things does he want to achieve? Why is this issue so important to him?

3. What position does he play for the Seahawks?

4. Carson, meanwhile, lives and works in Seattle — where tents are pitched on street corners and beneath underpasses, constant evidence of a homeless crisis staining his second home. Every game, every practice, every rep, the 24-year-old is running so someday soon he can do what?

5. Carson is trying to make a better world for Seattle’s homeless, too. So, too, is ROOTS — the largest youth shelter in the state — a 19-year-old nonprofit housed out of the University Temple United Methodist Church on Northeast 43rd Street near the University of Washington in North Seattle. What does ROOTS offer every night?

6. Still, it’s his style — his fearless physicality, his penchant for falling forward — that has endeared him to the city of Seattle and its fans. What were some of his physical ailments that could’ve derailed him from his goal?

7. As for Carson, his goal was to harness whatever name recognition he’s garnered and redirect it toward ROOTS. It was to use his unique platform to fulfill a promise to his mother. What did he tell her?

8. The donors inside Hangar 30 — with its bright bulbs dangling from the rafters, illuminating the room — certainly loved Carson last Friday night; they saluted him with a standing ovation as the resilient running back returned to his seat. They also cared about the cause enough to raise $________________ to fight homelessness in Seattle (and, once it learned of Carson’s involvement, Safeway offered to match that figure).

9. When Safeway learned of Carson’s involvement with this charity, what did they do?

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

- How difficult must it have been to see your home burn down?
- What thoughts do you think were swirling in their mind at the time?
- He says his family felt hopeless, helpless…and grateful.

“We felt very blessed to be alive after that,” Rowe said. “Going through that, it was like nothing else could really bother you. Nothing else mattered. If we would have had to sleep in a tent that would have been fine.”

- Why is gratitude so important in life?

“I just remember this moment where we were outside and my mom was on the curb and she was crying, and we just had to look at our house while it burned down,” Carson said last Friday night, sitting on a stage in front of a room full of strangers, dressed in black from head to toe. “So that’s something that’s always played over and over in my head.
“I told my mom, ‘If I can, I’m going to get you a new house. I’m going to try to make a better world for us.’”

- As for Carson, his goal was to harness whatever name recognition he’s garnered and redirect it toward ROOTS. It was to use his unique platform to fulfill a promise to his mother.
- Professional athletes make millions. While some athletes do set up organizations and help those in need, why don’t they all contribute back to society like this?
- If you made millions each year. Would you give back? What organization or charities would you support? Why?
- Why does having social status impact events like these? If Carson wasn’t a part of this event, do you think it would’ve done as well? 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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Pre-Reading Discussion:

Answers will vary

Vocabulary Building:

Crisis: A time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger. "The current economic crisis."

Comprehension Answers:

1. ROOTS: Is an emergency shelter for homeless youth ages 18 to 25.
2. 1) Fight homelessness and 2) fulfill his promise to his Mom. Because, not so long ago, he was homeless, too.
3. Starting running back for the Seattle Seahawks
4. Replace his parents’ house.
5. Every night from 9 p.m. to 8 a.m., it offers 45 beds, hot meals and a brief respite from the ruthless cold and rain.
6. A torn ACL suffered during his senior season of high school didn’t stop him. A hairline fracture in his forearm a few years earlier didn’t stop him. A torn ligament in his thumb during his senior season at Oklahoma State didn’t stop him. A broken leg during his rookie season with the Seattle Seahawks didn’t stop him.
7. “I told her, ‘If I get this chance, I’m going to use this platform and try to help out as much as I can,’ ” Carson told the crowd. “My agent and my team got me in contact with ROOTS, and I saw what they were doing here. It was amazing. I knew I wanted to get involved with it. I wanted to be a supporter of it. I’m just blessed that I got to meet these people and help out as best I can.”
8. $53,100
9. They matched the amount to double the proceeds from the fundraising event.

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