Teachers Rebel Against Low Pay and School Funding

**COMMON CORE / CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS ANCHOR STANDARD — Reading 2:** Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

**READING LEVEL 4-6 | NATIONAL | PG. 1**

**Content Learning Objective**
Learners will correct false statements related to the story.

**Before Reading**
Ask learners what they know about teaching in the U.S.

**Check Comprehension**
Encourage learners to answer in complete sentences.
1. Why did teachers in West Virginia walk out of their classrooms? What did they get? *(They demanded more money. They got a 5 percent raise.)*
2. Why have teachers in Kentucky marched to the state capitol building? What are two other states where teachers are asking for something? *(They are protesting school funding cuts and changes to their retirement plans. The two other states are Arizona and Oklahoma.)*
3. What are some other jobs teachers in the story do to make money? *(The other jobs include waitress, rodeo judge, yard worker, cabinet builder, and Uber driver.)*
4. How much did lawmakers in Oklahoma approve for teacher raises and school classrooms? How much more money do teachers want? *(Lawmakers have approved a teacher raise of about $6,100 and added $50 million to the budget for school classrooms. But teachers say they want a $10,000 raise. They also want an added $200 million in education funding.)*

**Discussion Questions**
1. Do you think the teachers in Oklahoma should get the extra money they want? Why or why not?
2. Do you know how well teachers are paid in your state? How about in your home country?
3. Do you know anyone who works as a teacher? What do they like or dislike about their job?

**Correcting False Sentences**
Have the following sentences on a handout or in a central place in the classroom where everyone can see them. Let learners know that each sentence has some false, or fake, information. They should find the fake information and correct it.

If necessary, learners can work in pairs to complete the activity. Check answers as a class when everyone is finished.

Answers appear at the end.
1. Teachers in Arizona are asking for a 10 percent raise and more funds for schools.
2. Dozens of teachers in Kentucky have marched to the state capitol building.
3. Oklahoma’s teachers are among the highest paid in the nation.
4. Oklahoma’s spending per student dropped 1 percent in the past 10 years.
5. The driver was a judge who was trying to make extra money before going into the classroom.
6. But teachers say they want a $100,000 raise.
7. Almost 25 percent comes from local property taxes.
8. Most states also cut school funds during the 2018 recession.
9. School funding in the U.S. comes from international, state, and local sources.
10. About 20 percent of districts are open only six days a week.

(1. Teachers in Arizona are asking for a 20 percent raise and more funds for schools. 2. Thousands of teachers in Kentucky have marched to the state capitol building. 3. Oklahoma’s teachers are among the lowest paid in the nation. 4. Oklahoma’s spending per student dropped 30 percent in the past 10 years. 5. The driver was a teacher who was trying to make extra money before going into the classroom. 6. But teachers say they want a $10,000 raise. 7. Almost half comes from local property taxes. 8. Most states also cut school funds during the 2008 recession. 9. School funding in the U.S. comes from federal, state, and local sources. 10. About 20 percent of districts are open only four days a week.)

**ANSWER KEY**

- **Malala Yousafzai Makes Return Visit to Pakistan (3–4)**
  - Accept reasonable, grammatically correct responses.
- **Library on Wheels Brings Books to Afghan Kids (3–4)**
  - Answers will vary. Accept reasonable, grammatically correct responses.
- **Lock of George Washington's Hair Found in an Old Library Book (3–4)**
  - 2, 3, 1, 5, 4
- **Study Finds That Lies Spread Faster and Farther Than Truth on Twitter (4–6)**
  - Answers will vary. Accept reasonable, grammatically correct responses.
- **Doctors in Quebec: Pay Us Less! (4–6)**
  - Answers will vary. Accept reasonable, grammatically correct responses.
- **What’s Old Is New Again: Decorate With Former Waste (4–6)**
  - 1. c, reuse 2. b, replace 3. d, rebalance 4. a, recalculate 5. e, redesign
Pair Work! Imagine that Malala Yousafzai is being interviewed about her life. Work with a partner. Take turns writing how she might answer each question. Use complete sentences. Then talk about the discussion questions.

1. Why did you leave your village in 2012?
   Malala:

2. Why did the Taliban try to kill you?
   Malala:

3. What is a special prize that you won?
   Malala:

4. Are the Taliban still in your village?
   Malala:

5. What do you think of your village? Do you plan to live in Pakistan again?
   Malala:

Discussion Questions: What did you know about Malala Yousafzai before you read this story? Do you think it is good for her to live in Pakistan again? Why or why not?

Library on Wheels Brings Books to Afghan Kids  Pg. 2

Use each vocabulary word in a sentence. Then talk about the discussion questions.

1. hope: ____________________________

2. neat: ____________________________

3. at risk: ____________________________

4. hardship: ____________________________

Discussion Questions: Do you use your local library? Have you ever seen a library in a bus or van? What other services should be offered “on wheels”? (Note to teachers: Many local libraries give tours. That could be a great way for your class to see all that the library offers.)
Lock of George Washington’s Hair Found in an Old Library Book  Pg. 2

Put the events in the correct time order (1 = first, 2 = second, etc.). Then talk about the discussion questions.

_____ Union College opened in Albany, New York.
_____ John Myers found an old book with a leather cover.
_____ Martha Washington cut a lock of George Washington’s hair before he left his job as president.
_____ Union College will protect the hair and put it on display.
_____ Experts agreed that the hair belonged to Washington.

Discussion Questions: Have you ever visited any historic sites about the U.S. presidents? Would you want to go see George Washington’s hair? Why or why not? Do you like learning about history?

Study Finds That Lies Spread Faster and Farther Than Truth on Twitter  Pg. 3

Truth or Lie Game! Write two sentences about yourself below. One should be true. The other should be a lie. With your classmates, take turns reading your sentences to the class. When you think a sentence about someone is true, clap your hands two times. When you think someone’s sentence is a lie, don’t clap at all. Do people believe the truth or lies more? Talk about this with the class. Finally, talk about the discussion questions.

Discussion Questions: Do you use Twitter? Do you ever share news stories on social media? Do you know if you have shared stories that are lies? Do you believe news that you read on social media?
Doctors in Quebec: Pay Us Less!  Pg. 3

Your Opinion! Do you agree with the doctors’ petition in Quebec to get paid less? Why or why not? Write a paragraph explaining your answer. Give at least three reasons to support your opinion. When you are finished, read your paragraph to a partner. Then talk about the discussion questions.

Discussion Questions: Do you see any doctors regularly? Do you know anyone who is a nurse? Does that person work a lot? What types of jobs should have higher pay?

What’s Old Is New Again: Decorate With Former Waste  Pg. 4

The prefix re- means “to bring something back” or “to do again.” For each sentence below, underline the word with re-. Then write the letter of the correct definition from the box for that word. Finally, talk about the discussion questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>add up again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>put something new in the place of something else</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>use again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>bring balance to something again</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>new look that has taken the place of an older version</td>
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</tbody>
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_____ 1. We’re going to reuse this water bottle so it doesn’t go in the trash.
_____ 2. We had to replace our car when it cost too much to fix it.
_____ 3. The mechanic had to rebalance our tires.
_____ 4. The banker had to recalculate the numbers because they looked wrong.
_____ 5. The website has a nice redesign.

Discussion Questions: Do you buy anything that is made from reused materials? Do you ever reuse things like plastic bags or containers?