

NEWS BREAK

Wednesday's News Break selects an article from Monday, October 12 of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. **Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

With help of readers, mother of three finally finds a home (NW Monday, page B1).

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Before you read this article, as a class discuss what you think this story will be about. Write down any keywords from the title, which you used to make your predictions. Also discuss what clues the picture accompanying the article might give you.

2. **Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions below.**

- A. anonymous
- B. bawling
- C. breakneck
- D. bureaucratic
- E. competition
- F. Darwinian
- G. discrimination
- H. disposed
- I. jinx
- J. landlord
- K. prohibiting
- L. scoured
- M. stipulated
- N. subsidy
- O. tenant
- P. voucher

- 1. using or connected with many complicated rules and ways of doing things
- 2. to demand or require (something) as part of an agreement
- 3. of or relating to a situation in which only people, businesses, etc., with the strongest skills or abilities are successful
- 4. to order (someone) not to use or do something; to say that (something) is not allowed
- 5. wanting to do something or likely to do something
- 6. a document that gives you the right to get something (such as a product or service) without paying for it
- 7. very fast; dangerously fast
- 8. to bring bad luck to (someone or something)
- 9. money that is paid usually by a government to keep the price of a product or service low or to help a business or organization to continue to function
- 10. to cry very loudly

11. to search (something) carefully and thoroughly
12. a person or group that you are trying to succeed against : a person or group that you are competing with
13. someone who rents or leases a house, apartment, etc., from a landlord
14. the practice of unfairly treating a person or group of people differently from other people or groups of people
15. made or done by someone unknown
16. a person who owns a house, apartment, etc., and rents it to other people

Comprehension

1. How many months had Dana Disharoon been scouring apartment listing for in order to use her federal Section 8 housing voucher and find an apartment for her and her children to live in?
 - a) Two months
 - b) Three months
 - c) Six months
2. Why did Dana have to find an apartment to live in by October 9th?
3. According to the article very few landlords are disposed to accepting Section 8 vouchers despite what?
4. In addition to very few landlords disposed to accept the vouchers, name one other challenge mentioned in the article that Dana faced while trying to find an apartment.
5. Dana was living in temporary housing she had obtained through a non-profit. Why was Dana, as well as the other tenants at the temporary housing facility, unable to stay living there?
6. When Dana finally found an apartment that would accept her voucher, what had to be done before Dana was allowed to sign the lease?
7. In part because of _____ delays, it looks like Disharoon would also have to cover her first month's rent without help from her voucher. **(Fill in the blank)**
8. What did an anonymous donor do to help Dana?
9. What did Dana say made her start bawling?
10. Why did Dana say she hadn't boxed up anything to move before signing the lease?

Additional Activities

1. Have students discuss the following questions: What does it mean to be homeless? Why are people homeless (what are some ways a person might become homeless)? What does a homeless person look like?
2. Have students discuss and brainstorm a list of ways to end homelessness. Also have students discuss and make a list of ways they can help homeless people.

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Answer Key to Vocabulary

- A. 15
- B. 10
- C. 7
- D. 1
- E. 12
- F. 3
- G. 14
- H. 5
- I. 8
- J. 16
- K. 4
- L. 11
- M. 2
- N. 9
- O. 13
- P. 6

Answer Key to Comprehension Questions

1. c) Six months
2. Because her federal Section 8 housing voucher was about to expire.
3. Despite a law prohibiting discrimination.
4. It was hard for her to find apartments within the stipulated rent limits. There was a lot of competition in Seattle's rental market. Tough inspections are required for federally subsidized units. **(Answers may vary – only one example necessary)**
5. Because all of the tenants were required to leave by January due to changes in the local homeless policy.
6. An inspection was required (for federally subsidized units) and the inspector found a bunch of repairs that needed to be made.
7. bureaucratic
8. An anonymous donor dropped off a cashier's check for the first month's rent.
9. When she opened a check for \$25 and read the note from the donor saying she wished she could give more.
10. She didn't want to jinx herself.