

NEWS BREAK

Sunday's News Break selects an article from **Sunday, November 22, 2015** of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected story and answer the attached study questions.

'McRefugees' story brings mother and son together (Main, page A15)

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 photo accompanying the article might give you.

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

- A. branded
- B. conscience
- C. invest
- D. mainland
- E. mortified
- F. ordeal
- G. outlets
- H. persuaded
- I. proceeds
- J. quoted
- K. reunion
- L. scam
- M. swindled
- N. transport
- O. whereabouts

- 1. a large area of land that forms a country or a continent and that does not include islands
- 2. the act or process of moving people or things from one place to another
- 3. to repeat (something written or said by another person) exactly
- 4. to use money to earn more money : to use your money to purchase stock in a company, to buy property, etc., in order to make future profit
- 5. a dishonest way to make money by deceiving people
- 6. to cause (someone) to do something by asking, arguing, or giving reason
- 7. the location of a person or thing
- 8. the part of the mind that makes you aware of your actions as being either morally right or wrong
- 9. an experience that is very unpleasant or difficult
- 10. to take money or property from (someone) by using lies or tricks
- 11. having a well-known brand name
- 12. an act of getting people together again after they have been apart
- 13. a store that sells products made usually by one company
- 14. to cause (someone) to feel very embarrassed and foolish
- 15. the total amount of money or profit that is made

Comprehension

1. Mary Seow was reunited with her son nearly how many years after she was reported missing? **(Multiple Choice)**
 - a) 1 year
 - b) 5 years
 - c) 10 years
 - d) None of the above
2. Her whereabouts was a mystery to her family until she was quoted in a story about people know as what in Hong Kong?
3. Seow was just one of the untold number of homeless and working poor who spend their nights in what fast-food chain's restaurants in Hong Kong because they are open 24-hours?
4. Mary Seow's ordeal began when she was swindled by people she had met where?
5. What did the people that swindled her persuade her to sell?
6. The people that swindled her also persuaded her to go to mainland China to _____ the money in their _____ business. **(Fill in the blanks)**
7. Seow tried to earn back some of her lost money by working as a street sweeper in China – **true or false?**
8. Eventually Seow ended up in Hong Kong, where she spent three months living on the streets and finding some work doing what is known as _____ trading. **(Fill in the blank)**
9. Why did Seow say she hadn't wanted to return to Singapore?

Additional Activities

1. After reading the article as a class discuss the following: Do you think some people are more susceptible to scams – what types of people? What are some ways to protect yourself from being scammed? What are some ways to recognize a scam? Below is a link to an article with tips to avoid getting scammed.
<http://www.today.com/money/10-simple-tips-avoid-getting-scammed-t6111>
2. **Answer the following questions about the article you just read:**
 - A. Who or what is this article about?
 - B. Why do you think this article is important?
 - C. What is the most important or interesting fact you learned from this article?

News Break is posted to the Web on Wednesday and Friday. Please share this NIE News Break program with other teachers. To sign-up for the electronic edition for your class, please register on-line or call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.

Answer Key to Vocabulary

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

Answer Key to Comprehension Questions

1. b) 5 years
2. McRefugees
3. McDonald's
4. She met them at a church in China (Singapore).
5. They persuaded her to sell her house.
6. invest, transport
7. True
8. parallel
9. She said she was mortified that she had lost the family home and didn't want to face her son.