

Civic Minds

Date: Friday, January 22, 2016

E-Edition Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2016

Article Title: **Wedding reception a gift to homeless**

Section: NW Tuesday, B1

Vocabulary:

Look up the definition of **devastated**. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

Dana is “**devastated**,” McCary said. “But she is very strong.”

Comprehension Questions

1. This was to have been Dana Olsen's wedding reception. What did the event become instead?
2. What is Mary's Place and where are they located?
3. What happened before the families boarded the buses?
4. What “personal” story stood out to you the most, in this article? Why?
5. The groom got cold feet. Everything was booked for the occasion and it was too late to get a refund. What did Dana ask her parents?
6. What did Dana do that day? Who did she spend it with?

Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts:

- ***What would you have done if you were in the same situation?***
- ***This story was about a special act of kindness, a special gift to those who needed it the most. What makes this story stand out?***
- ***Dana decided to hike with her Dad the day on the day of the wedding had been scheduled. What do you do to calm yourself when you're stressed or feeling sad? Where do you go to find inner calm?***
- ***What kinds of acts of service or kindness have you given, big or small? How does it make you feel to help others in need?***
- ***This story is also about resilience. These people are homeless, but are hoping to get jobs and create a better life for themselves. How will having a positive vs. negative attitude help them achieve their goals?***

“I’m going to have a bad day,” she told her best friend Katie McCary, who was to have been her maid of honor. “Other people might as well have a good night.” Instead of getting married, Dana spent the day hiking with her dad near Palm Springs, Calif.

Manuel appreciated what Dana Olsen had given them that evening. “It takes a big heart to give away to other people everything your heart was in,” he said.

- Where do you think Dana gained the strength to have a “giving” spirit? How will positivity help her throughout her life?

Essay

How does the attributes of caring, kindness and giving impact your own life? What acts of service have you seen in your own life? Have you done many on your own? How does it make you feel?

Newspaper-related CBA activity: U.S. Policy

How the United States government interacts with the world affects people across the globe. Analyze and evaluate the causes and effects of US foreign policy on people in the United States and across the world.

- Using The Seattle Times e-edition, find an article from this week that deals with world politics or foreign policy.
- What are the main points of view from someone living in that particular country? How is that “view” similar and different than your own opinion, regarding the specific issue the article is discussing?
- Why is it important to study and learn about foreign policy? How does it help you understand the world we live in, using current issues and events?

Civic Minds in The Seattle Times is posted to the Web on Friday. Please share the NIE program with other teachers. To sign-up for the electronic edition of the newspaper please call 206/652-6290 or toll-free 1-888/775-2655.

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