NEWS BREAK

Sunday's News Break selects an article from Sunday, November 6, 2016 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.

Article: Chobani's founder draws ire for helping, hiring immigrants (Main, A4)

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

What is considered the classic American immigrant success story?

Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions in the chart below.

A. advocate	To give a concrete form to; express, personify, or exemplify in concrete form
B. boycott	2. Motivated by wrongful, vicious, or mischievous purposes
C. embody	3. To speak or write in favor of; support or urge by argument; recommend publicly
D. exploit	4. Aspirations common to the whole of a nation.
E. malicious	5. To combine in abstaining from, or preventing dealings with, as a means of intimidation or coercion
F. nationalism	6. An unreasonable fear or hatred of foreigners or strangers or of that which is foreign or strange.
G. xenophobia	7. To use selfishly for one's own ends

Comprehension:

- 1. By many measures, Chobani embodies the classic American immigrant success story. Why? Where is the founder from and who is he hiring? Why do some Americans have a problem with this?
- 2. How has Ulukaya stepped up his advocacy of refugees?
- 3. Why has Ulukaya and his company been targeted with racist attacks on social media and conspiratorial articles on websites including Breitbart News and recent calls to boycott his company?
- 4. What is Ulukaya's story? How did he start selling Chobani in 2007?
- 5. As the business grew, Ulukaya needed more help. What did he do?
- 6. What companies joined in pledging various forms of assistance to refugees? Those companies and others began working with the Tent Foundation, which Ulukaya founded

- last year to help with the refugee crisis. Chobani has pledged to help other companies learn how to effectively integrate refugees into a workforce.
- 7. But while an alliance of well-known companies was now working together on the issue, the online critics zeroed in on Chobani. Shortly after Ulukaya spoke in Davos, the far-right website WND published a story. What was the title?
- 8. Then this summer, Breitbart, the conservative news website whose former executive chairman, Stephen K. Bannon, is running the Trump campaign, began publishing a series of misleading articles about Chobani. What were some of those articles about?
- 9. Civil-rights advocates said they believed it was no mystery why Ulukaya was targeted while other chief executives had been spared. Why?
- 10. And his work with refugees is part of a broader suite of initiatives. He recently gave _____ percent of Chobani shares to his employees, and he is offering paid parental leave to all employees, including factory workers.

Group Discussion Questions or Extension Essay Questions:

"What's happening with Chobani is one more flash point in this battle between the voices of xenophobia and the voices advocating a rational immigration policy," said Cecillia Wang, director of the Immigrants' Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union.

Do you agree or disagree with Wang's statement above? Why or why not?

"The minute a refugee has a job, that's the minute they stop being a refugee," Ulukaya said in a talk this year. Today, Chobani has annual yogurt sales of around \$1.5 billion. Last year, Ulukaya signed the Giving Pledge, promising to give away a majority of his fortune to assist refugees.

- Do you agree with Ulukaya's statement above? Why or why not?
- Why do some successful business owners give away a majority of their fortune to help others?
- Why do many wealthy, not give or share their money to help others less fortunate?

Chobani and the other companies working with refugees are not exploiting them, said Jennifer Patterson, project director for the Partnership for Refugees, a federal program.

"It's the exact opposite," Patterson said. "These companies are looking to provide resettled refuges with the ability to live happy and productive lives. There's never any malicious talk about getting them on the cheap."

Chobani's work with refugees went largely unnoticed until January, when Ulukaya spoke at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. His message — that corporations needed to do more to assist refugees — broke through the high minded rhetoric.

"He was quite a sensation there," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch, who attended the event. "Here was someone who went beyond the well-meaning chatter of Davos and was walking the walk."

- Why do some people think Chobani is exploiting refugees?
- What do you think about what the company is doing to help refugees make a new life for themselves and their families?

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.

Copyright © 2016 The Seattle Times Company

Newsbreak Answer Key: November 6, 2016

Vocabulary

- A. 3
- B. 5
- C. 1
- D. 7
- E. 2
- F. 4
- G. 6

Comprehension Questions

 Its founder, Hamdi Ulukaya, is a Turkish immigrant of Kurdish descent. He bought a defunct yogurt factory in upstate New York, added a facility in Twin Falls, Idaho, and now employs about 2,000 people making Greek yogurt.

But in this contentious election season, the extreme right has a problem with Chobani: In its view, too many of those employees are refugees.

- 2. He employs more than 300 refugees in his factories, started a foundation to help migrants, and traveled to the Greek island of Lesbos to witness the crisis firsthand.
- 3. He and his company have been targeted with racist attacks on social media and conspiratorial articles on websites including Breitbart News. Now there are calls to boycott Chobani. Ulukaya and the company have been taunted with racist epithets on Twitter and Facebook. Fringe websites have published false stories claiming Ulukaya wants "to drown the United States in Muslims." And the mayor of Twin Falls has received death threats, partly as a result of his support for Chobani.

Online hate speech is on the rise, reflecting the rising nationalism displayed by some supporters of Donald Trump, who has opposed resettling refugees in the United States.

- 4. Ulukaya arrived in upstate New York in the 1990s to attend school. By 2002, he was making and selling feta cheese inspired by a family recipe. A few years later, he learned that a local yogurt and cheese factory that had closed was for sale. He received a loan of \$800,000 from the Small Business Administration to purchase the factory, and started selling Chobani yogurt in 2007.
- 5. As the business grew, Ulukaya needed more help. When he learned there was a refugee-resettlement center in a nearby town, he asked if any of the newcomers wanted jobs at Chobani. Ulukaya provided transportation for the new hires, and he brought in translators to assist them. He paid the refugee workers' salaries above the minimum wage, as he did other workers at the factory.

When Chobani opened its factory in Twin Falls, Ulukaya once again turned to a local resettlement center. The company now employs resettled refugees from Iraq, Afghanistan and Turkey, among other countries.

- 6. Cisco, IBM, Salesforce and more.
- 7. "American Yogurt Tycoon Vows to Choke U.S. With Muslims"
- 8. One drew a connection between Chobani's hiring of refugees and a spike in tuberculosis cases in Idaho. Another linked Chobani to a "Twin Falls Crisis Imposed by Clinton-Era Pro-Refugee Advocates." A third conflated Chobani's hiring practices with a sexual-assault case in Twin Falls involving minors.

As Brietbart began publishing its articles, the online attacks grew more intense. On Twitter and Facebook, users called for a boycott of Chobani. An image was widely shared on social media that claimed Ulukaya was "going to drown the United States in Muslims and is importing them to Idaho 300 at a time to work in his factory." And bloggers fabricated stories claiming that Chobani was pressuring local officials "to facilitate their multitude of Muslim friendly/Islamification requests."

- 9. "It's because he's an immigrant himself," Wang of the ACLU said.
- 10. 10%