

NEWS BREAK

Wednesday's News Break selects an article from the **Sunday, January 1, 2017** print replica of The Seattle Times 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: Library used fake 'reader' to keep books on shelves, Main A15

Objective: Students will read an informational text and use the text as the basis to discuss the importance of libraries.

Standard:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.1

Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary:

Read and reflect on the following quote by Neil Gaiman:

"Google can bring you back 100,000 answers, a librarian can bring you back the right one."

–Neil Gaiman

Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not? When is the last time you went to a library? Do you have a library card? Do you like libraries? What is your favorite part about libraries? Do you think libraries are important?

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

A. Audit	1. a large-scale systematic plan or arrangement for attaining some particular object or putting a particular idea into effect
B. Circulation	2. create or devise (said especially of a story or plan)
C. Concocted	3. present in large numbers or quantities; plentiful
D. Discarded	4. exceedingly eager or avid
E. Patron	5. a spell or sustained period of unrestrained activity of a particular kind

F. Prolific	6. the total number of copies of a magazine, book, newspaper, newsletter, or catalog that are distributed via direct mail or other channels
G. Purged	7. get rid of (someone or something) as no longer useful or desirable
H. Schemes	8. the removal of elements or members regarded as undesirable and especially as treacherous or disloyal
I. Spree	9. a person who gives financial or other support to a person, organization, cause, or activity
J. Voracious	10. an official examination and verification of accounts and records, especially of financial accounts

Comprehension:

- 1) How many books did Chuck Finley check out in 9 months?
- 2) Why didn't Chuck Finley read a single one of the books that he checked out?
- 3) What happens to books that aren't used for a long period of time in the Lake County library system?
- 4) What did George Dore say that he was trying to avoid?
- 5) Each year, how much money do city libraries in the Lake County library system receive from the county based on circulation?
- 6) Who is the real Chuck Finley?
- 7) What did the inspector general equate the creation of a fake library card to?
- 8) By how much did The East County Library increase its circulation by through Chuck Finley?

Group Discussion Questions or Extension Activity:

- Do you agree or disagree with a system that discards books based on their circulation? What qualities do you think are the most important to consider when deciding which books to keep in a library? Who should have say in what books are in the library? Why? Work with a group to brainstorm an alternative system for which books should stay in the library.
- Do you think that it was wrong for the librarians to create a fictional person to check out books? Why or why not? Imagine that Chuck Finley was a real person, and he was able to read all 2,361 of the books that he checked out. What do you think his life would be like? What kind of things would he know? Which books would be his favorites? What do you think inspired him to read so much? Create your own story and/or drawing about Chuck Finley.

News Break is posted to the Web on Monday and Wednesday. 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.

Newsbreak Answer Key: January 4, 2017

Vocabulary

- A. 10
- B. 6
- C. 2
- D. 7
- E. 9
- F. 3
- G. 8
- H. 1
- I. 5
- J. 4

Comprehension Answers

- 1) 2,361
- 2) Because Finley isn't real
- 3) They can be discarded and removed from the library system
- 4) Having to repurchase books purged from the shelf
- 5) Just under \$1 million
- 6) the fictional Chuck Finley was named after a baseball player
- 7) To the creation of a false public record
- 8) 3.9 percent