THE LOTTERY WINNER WHO GAVE IT ALL AWAY

High-Interest Nonfiction Reading Passage

WHAT'S INCLUDED

✓ Reading Passage ✓ Comprehension Questions
✓ Answer Key ✓ Teacher Guide

GRADES 4-6 • LEXILE ~750L • DOK LEVELS 1-4

Reading they'll actually do.

TERMS OF USE

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WHAT'S INCLUDED

✓ High-interest nonfiction reading passage (300-400 words)

✓ 6 comprehension questions spanning DOK levels 1-4

✓ Complete answer key with explanations

✓ Teacher guide with standards, pacing, and extensions

Questions or feedback? Leave a review or message us through TPT!

THE LOTTERY WINNER WHO GAVE IT ALL AWAY

In 1997, Tom Crist of Calgary, Canada, won $40 million in the lottery—one of the largest jackpots in Canadian history at that time. He didn't tell anyone about his windfall for months. And when he finally decided to go public with the news, it was to make an announcement that shocked everyone who heard it: he was giving away every single penny to charity.

Crist was a retired oil company CEO who already had enough money to live comfortably for the rest of his life. When he won the lottery, he was still grieving the recent death of his wife Jan, who had passed away from cancer after a difficult illness. He decided almost immediately that the money should honor her memory by helping others who were facing the same terrible disease that had taken her.

He donated $20 million to the Alberta Cancer Foundation to fund research and treatment programs. Another substantial portion went to the Canadian Red Cross and various other charitable organizations working on causes Jan had cared about. He kept absolutely nothing for himself, his children, or his grandchildren—though he did take his family out to a nice dinner to celebrate their good fortune in being able to help so many people.

'I had enough money before I won,' Crist explained to reporters who struggled to understand his decision. 'Jan and I always believed in giving back to our community. This just gave me a lot more to give.'

Remarkably, his children supported the decision completely. They had established their own careers and achieved their own financial security. More importantly, they shared their parents' values about wealth and the responsibilities that come with good fortune. 'Dad did exactly what Mom would have wanted him to do,' his daughter told interviewers.

Crist's decision stands in stark contrast to what typically happens to lottery winners. Studies consistently show that many people who win large jackpots experience depression, family conflicts, and financial problems within just a few years of their windfall. The sudden money changes relationships and creates pressures that prove difficult to handle.

By giving everything away, Crist avoided all those complications while transforming his luck into hope for thousands of cancer patients.

Word Count: 365 | Lexile: ~750L | Grades 4-6 | Source: The Telegraph

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COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 **How much did Tom Crist win?**

◯ A) $4 million

◯ B) $14 million

◯ C) $40 million

◯ D) $400 million

2 **How much went to the Alberta Cancer Foundation?**

◯ A) $5 million

◯ B) $10 million

◯ C) $20 million

◯ D) $40 million

3 **Why did Crist donate to cancer charities specifically?**

◯ A) He had cancer

◯ B) His wife had died of cancer

◯ C) A doctor suggested it

◯ D) It was required

4 **How did his children react to the decision?**

◯ A) They were angry

◯ B) They supported it completely

◯ C) They sued him

◯ D) They refused to speak to him

5 **How did giving away the money help Crist personally?**

◯ A) He got famous

◯ B) He avoided the problems many lottery winners experience

◯ C) He got a tax break

◯ D) It didn't help him

6 **What does Crist's quote 'money can buy hope' mean?**

◯ A) Hope is for sale

◯ B) Donations can fund research and treatment that give sick people a chance

◯ C) Rich people are happier

◯ D) The lottery is good

ANSWER KEY

The Lottery Winner Who Gave It All Away

1. C) $40 million

DOK 1 — Recall.

2. C) $20 million

DOK 1 — Recall.

3. B) His wife had died of cancer

DOK 2 — Inference.

4. B) They supported it completely

DOK 2 — Inference.

5. B) He avoided the problems many lottery winners experience

DOK 3 — Analysis.

6. B) Donations can fund research and treatment that give sick people a chance

DOK 4 — Extended Thinking.

TEACHER GUIDE

The Lottery Winner Who Gave It All Away

STANDARDS ALIGNMENT
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.1 — Refer to details and examples in a text
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.4 — Determine meaning of words and phrases
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.8 — Explain how author uses evidence

PACING OPTIONS
- Quick Read (10-15 min): Passage + questions 1-4
- Standard (20-25 min): Full passage + all questions
- Deep Dive (35-40 min): Add discussion + extension

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
- Would you give away a lottery win? What amount would change your answer?
- Crist's children supported his decision. Would you support a parent giving away your inheritance?
- Does giving away money make someone more admirable than keeping it?

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES
- Research what happens to most lottery winners and create a statistical summary.
- Interview someone about a significant charitable donation they've made and why.
- Design a plan for how you would distribute $40 million to charity.

DIFFERENTIATION
- Struggling: Pre-teach vocabulary, partner reading
- Advanced: Add research, compare to related events
- ELL: Visual supports, pre-teach context

SOURCE
- The Telegraph / German media

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