

Finder\$ Keeper\$

David always thought that he was an honest person. But something happened to him to make him wonder.

Read the story and find out: What happened?

Suddenly it was raining money. Money was falling from the sky and beginning to cover the ground like green snow.

David thought he was dreaming. He saw \$100 bills everywhere. All he had to do was reach out and take a handful. He did. He did it again. And again. Soon he had more \$100 bills than he could hold. David saw an empty paper bag on the ground. He filled it up with more \$100 bills.

He looked up and saw, on the bridge over his head, an overturned truck. The truck had smashed into another truck. The accident was so bad that all of the money the truck was carrying spilled into the road. The

wind was blowing hard, so the bills were floating all over.

David saw people running from everywhere. They were shouting to each other to hurry up. They were gathering money and putting it in purses and bags.

He had never seen people working so quickly.

David then heard the sirens and saw the flashing lights on the police cars as they raced to the accident on the bridge. He left quickly.

When he got home, David counted the money he had picked up—almost \$25,000. He had never seen so much money. And it was his! It belonged to him!

Or did it? David began to think about that. Did it really belong to him? If it wasn't his, then whose money was it? Well, thought David, it might belong to the bank. It was the bank's truck that crashed, and the money came from that truck.

But the money was just floating around. He had not robbed a bank or stolen the money from somebody. What he had done was different. And nobody knew him. Nobody could say that he had picked up the money. And then David thought of all of those other people who were picking up the money, just like he had done.

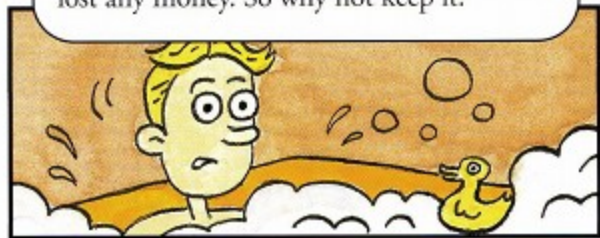
But David was worried. He wondered if he should return the money.



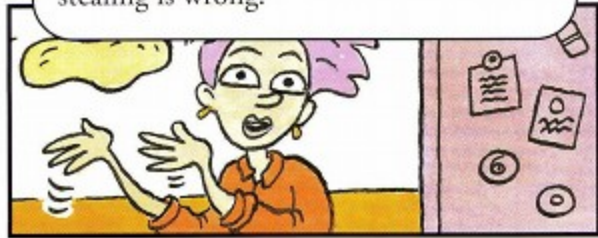
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Should David keep the money or return it?
Check your opinion.

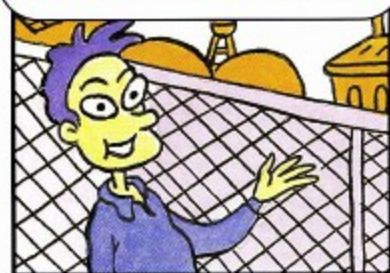
He should keep it. I think the bank had insurance on the money, so nobody actually lost any money. So why not keep it?



Of course he should return it. It's not his money. It's actually stealing, and stealing is wrong!



He has to return it. Otherwise he will feel guilty.



He should keep it. Nobody will know. He was lucky!



Maybe he should return half of the money, just in case somebody saw him there.



Now exchange your ideas with a classmate.

TURN TO PAGE 89 FOR AN INTERACTION TIP.

LOOKING AT THE ISSUE

• If you found cash on the street, would you take it to the police? Or does it depend on the amount?

- I would take the cash to the police if it were _____ or more, but I would keep it if it were less than that.
- I would take it to the police whatever amount it was.

• What would you do in the following situations? Would you be honest? Or would you be "silent"?

Your paycheck is suddenly \$1,000 more than usual.

The clerk at a supermarket gives you change for a \$100 bill, but it was actually a \$50 bill.

The waiter in a restaurant forgets to add \$20 to your check for the bottle of wine you ordered.

Your friend gives you \$100 and says, "Thank you for lending me the money the other day." But you don't remember lending any money.

One morning you find \$1,000 cash in an envelope in your mailbox. Nothing is written on the envelope.

I'd be "silent." I'd be honest.

	I'd be "silent."	I'd be honest.
Your paycheck is suddenly \$1,000 more than usual.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The clerk at a supermarket gives you change for a \$100 bill, but it was actually a \$50 bill.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The waiter in a restaurant forgets to add \$20 to your check for the bottle of wine you ordered.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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