

# 13

## Fighting Crime with Books



### 1. Read the story

Look at the pictures on these pages.  
What is the story about? Now read it.

**MEXICO CITY, MEXICO** <sup>1</sup>Like many big cities, Mexico City has a **problem** with crime in its subways\*. <sup>2</sup>But it has found an unusual way to fight back—not with more police or bigger prisons but with books! The city is trying to make its **underground** stations big **libraries**. <sup>3</sup>Javier Gonzales Garza, the head of the subway, says, “when people read, people change.”

<sup>4</sup>The city has given free books to subway riders **since** 2004 and wants to **give away** millions more in the future. <sup>5</sup>The city hopes that readers will **return** the books when they finish, but no one is checking. <sup>6</sup>The books **contain** very short stories,

so people can read them during a quick subway ride. <sup>7</sup>Passengers love the idea. “The books just fly out of our hands,” says one book volunteer\*\*.

<sup>8</sup>The city is also putting **art** in some subway stations. Will books and art make the city **safer** and keep people out of prison? Not everyone is sure. “Maybe we’ll just get more **educated** criminals,” says one rider.

\*subways: train systems that run under the ground

\*\*volunteer: a person who does a job for no money

### NEW WORDS

city *n*

underground *adj*

since *prep*

return *v*

art *n*

educated *adj*

problem *n*

library *n*

give away *v*

contain *v*

safe *adj*

>> See Glossary on page 94. >>

### 2. Rate the story

How much did you like it? Mark an **X**.

Not at All

A Lot





### 3. Check your comprehension

Match the first and second parts of the sentences.

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| a. Mexico City is trying to fight ____          | 1. art.                         |
| b. The city's subway stations are now also ____ | 2. millions of books.           |
| c. The city will give away ____                 | 3. libraries.                   |
| d. The books contain ____                       | 4. crime.                       |
| e. In some stations, you can also see ____      | 5. stories that are very short. |

### 4. Check your vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the New Words.

- S\_\_\_\_\_ 2004, Mexico C\_\_\_\_\_ has given \_\_\_\_\_ many books in its subway stations.
- It is also putting a\_\_\_\_\_ in some underg\_\_\_\_\_ stations.
- Will the new lib\_\_\_\_\_ies make the city s\_\_\_\_\_er?
- One rider said, "We'll just get more ed\_\_\_\_\_ criminals."

### 5. Listen to the story track 26

Now listen to the story two or three times. Look at the pictures below as you listen.



### 6. Retell the story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Retell the story using the New Words.

## 7. Answer the questions

About the story...

- Why is Mexico City giving away books in the subways?
- What happens if readers do not return the books?
- What do the books contain?
- Do you think the city's plan will work? Why or why not?

About you...

- How does your city fight crime?
- What kind of books or stories do you like to read?
- Who is the best-educated person that you know?
- Has a book changed you or your ideas? How?

## 8. Learn word partnerships

Study the partnerships below. Complete the sentences so they are true for you.

PROBLEM	
have a problem with something	<i>Mexico City has a problem with crime.</i> <i>I have a problem with my leg.</i> <i>She has a problem with her car.</i>
be a (big / serious / huge) problem	<i>Crime is a big problem in my town.</i> <i>Traffic is not a serious problem.</i> <i>Pollution is a huge problem.</i>

- I have a problem \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is a \_\_\_\_\_ problem in my city.
- \_\_\_\_\_ is not a \_\_\_\_\_ problem here.

## 9. Learn word groups

Complete the sentences so they are true for you. Use words from the picture.

### PLACES IN THE CITY



- My city has \_\_\_\_\_ that is very beautiful.
- We need \_\_\_\_\_.
- There is \_\_\_\_\_ near my house, but there isn't \_\_\_\_\_.



## 10. Take a dictation track 27

Use your own paper to write the dictation. Check your answers on page 87.

## 11. Complete the story

Use the words from the box to complete the story.

library    city    contained    big problem    educated

# BOOKS ARE HIS PUNISHMENT

YENIFAKILI, TURKEY    A judge\* in the Turkish (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of Yenifakili

gave a criminal an unusual punishment\*\*. The judge decided that he was not going to send the young man to prison. He had a better idea. The judge wanted Alparslan Yigit to become a more (2) \_\_\_\_\_ man.

He sent Yigit to the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ every day for a month. For 90 minutes a day, Yigit had to read books that (4) \_\_\_\_\_ news about the world or

short stories. But Yigit did not like reading. He said that it was a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ for

him and added, "It's like doing the dishes at home."

A police officer sat next to Yigit while he read. The officer had to check that the criminal was really reading, not just turning the pages.



\* judge: a person who decides what to do with criminals

\*\* punishment: a way of making someone suffer when they do something wrong



### Talk about the stories

How are the two stories in this unit similar? Do you think that books can make people nicer or more honest? Why or why not?