

# A Month Without the Paper

*Read this story to learn the importance of the newspaper in a community.*

1 It was a sunny morning, Tom and his mother were enjoying a brisk walk around the block. All at once a thought occurred to Tom.

2 "Mom, I think I have a topic for my speech class assignment. Remember a few years ago when the newspaper companies in Fairlawn went on strike?"

3 "Of course, I remember, Tom," his mother answered. "Why do you ask?"

4 "Well," Tom began, "things were different without the newspaper. Why couldn't I give my speech about some of the differences?"

5 "That's an interesting topic," Mrs. Ellis answered. "Where would you begin?"

6 "I guess I'll start by talking to some people from Fairlawn to see what they remember. I'll see if Uncle Max will introduce me to some of his friends in Fairlawn."

7 The next day, Tom and Uncle Max drove to Fairlawn to visit a friend of Uncle Max.

8 "Tom, this is Lynn Mills," said Uncle Max when they arrived at Lynn's house. "Tom and I were hoping you could tell us a little about the newspaper strike a few years ago."

9 "I'll tell you what I remember," said Lynn. "Some of my friends read the morning newspaper at breakfast or on their way to their jobs. Then the newspaper company shut down. They had to change their routines. Many readers thought it would be easy to do without the paper. In fact, I thought I could just listen to the news on the radio or television," Lynn continued. "I didn't realize how many different things newspapers have to offer."

10 "What do you mean?" Tom asked uncertainly. Lynn stopped to think.

11 She told Tom that on Friday night, she didn't have the paper's entertainment

section. "I didn't know what shows or movies were in town. I called five theaters before I found a movie I wanted to see," Lynn said. "And on Saturday when I went grocery shopping, my bill was higher than usual. I hadn't been able to clip any coupons from the paper all week."

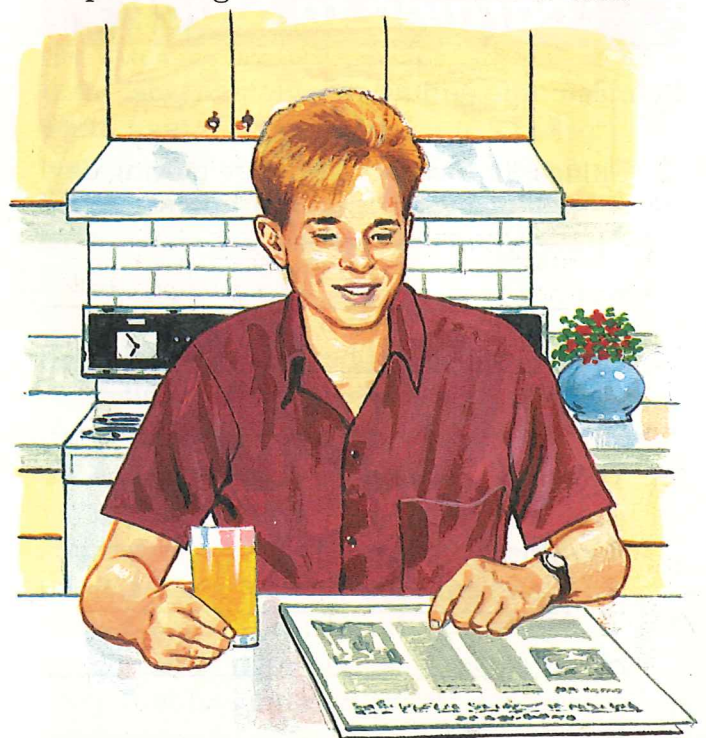
12 "How did people feel as the strike wore on?" asked Uncle Max.

13 "The strike had an effect on the entire city," Lynn replied. "Couples had become engaged and married. The announcements were not in the paper. Some people weren't aware of an acquaintance's death because they hadn't been able to read the paper."

14 "What happened once the strike was settled?" Tom asked.

15 "After a month, the strike was finally settled. Everyone was quite happy," Lynn answered. "Most of us had never realized how much we depended on the paper for news and entertainment."

16 As Tom and Uncle Max prepared to leave, Tom thanked Lynn. "You've been very helpful. I'm glad we had a chance to talk."



## Knowing the Words

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. lively

\_\_\_\_\_ (Par. 1)

2. came to mind

\_\_\_\_\_ (Par. 1)

3. stopping work for a special purpose

\_\_\_\_\_ (Par. 2)

4. a person you know

\_\_\_\_\_ (Par. 13)

Find the synonym (word with similar meaning) in the story for each of these words.

5. part \_\_\_\_\_ (Par. 11)

6. film \_\_\_\_\_ (Par. 11)

7. friend \_\_\_\_\_ (Par. 13)

## Learning to Study

Read this newspaper coupon and answer the questions.

<b>Lister's Limeade</b>	<b>One coupon per purchase</b>	
<b>OFFER GOOD</b>		
<b>15¢</b>	<b>September 16-21</b>	<b>15¢</b>

1. If you used this newspaper coupon, how much money would you save? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Could you use this coupon on September 30? Why or why not?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Reading and Thinking

1. The main idea of paragraph 9 is  
\_\_\_\_ entertainment in Fairlawn.  
\_\_\_\_ the strike's effects.  
\_\_\_\_ saving money.

2. The author wrote this story to  
\_\_\_\_ talk about strikes.  
\_\_\_\_ explain newspaper advertising.  
\_\_\_\_ explain the importance of a newspaper.

3. Write two effects the newspaper strike had on the people of Fairlawn.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What might have happened if the strike had lasted longer than a month?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Working with Words

Write the compound word from the list that makes sense in each sentence.

footsteps    suitcases    sidewalk

1. Jean and I arrived at the airport without our \_\_\_\_\_.
2. As I was walking into the shop, I heard \_\_\_\_\_ behind me.
3. Shoppers had a hard time walking on the snow-covered \_\_\_\_\_.