

“One Hundred Dollars”

Reading Comprehension – Short Stories

Directions: Read the story. Then answer the questions below.



Leonard James is a homeless man. For him, life is always hard.

He is always hungry. His shoes have holes in them. He needs a haircut. His clothes are old and dirty.

“What I would do with one hundred dollars!” Leonard says. This is a game he likes to play with himself to take his mind off things.

He is walking down the street on a Thursday night. It is winter. The air is cold.

“If I had one hundred dollars, I could buy new socks,” he says. He continues to walk down the street.

“If I had one hundred dollars, I could get a haircut,” he says. He continues to walk down the street.

“If I had one hundred dollars, I could buy new pants,” he says. He continues to walk down the street.

“If I had one hundred dollars, I could get a hamburger,” he says. His stomach rumbles at the thought.

“If I had” Leonard looks down at the sidewalk. He cannot **believe** what he sees!

Someone has lost his wallet. Leonard picks it up. Inside are five twenty-dollar bills.

“One hundred dollars!” Leonard says. He is very excited. “Now I can buy everything I want!”

Leonard begins to think.

“But this is not my money,” he says.

Leonard goes to the police station. He gives a police officer the wallet and money.

“Thank you,” says the police officer. “You are a very **honest** man.”

Leonard smiles. He turns around and begins to leave the police station.

“Hold on,” the police officer says. He reaches in his own pocket and gives Leonard ten dollars. “Get yourself something to eat.”

Questions:

1) What is life like for Leonard?

- A. It is hard.
- B. It is easy.
- C. It is warm.
- D. It is full of good food.

2) How does the reader know that Leonard is poor?

▼ Check all that are correct.

- A. He is honest.
- B. He has no home.
- C. He finds a wallet.
- D. He is always hungry.

3) Why does Leonard think about what he would do with a hundred dollars?

- A. It helps him go to sleep.
- B. It takes his mind off things.
- C. The police officer asks him to.
- D. He knows he will find the money.

4) What time of year is it?

- A. _____

5) What does Leonard say he would do with a hundred dollars?

▼ Check all that are correct.

- A. get a haircut
- B. buy new clothes
- C. get a hotel room
- D. get something to eat

6) Why does Leonard's stomach rumble?

- A. _____

7) He cannot **believe** what he sees. What is another way to write this sentence?

- A. He thinks what he sees is crazy.
- B. He feels what he sees is good luck.
- C. He thinks what he sees can not be true.
- D. He does not think what he sees is scary.

8) Why does Leonard go to the police station?

- A. because he owes money
- B. because he wants a reward
- C. because the wallet is not his
- D. because he has committed a crime

Questions (continued):

9) What kind of man does Leonard seem to be?

- A. bad
- B. dumb
- C. good
- D. old

10) What does it mean to be **honest** ?

- A. to be angry
- B. to want more
- C. to be truthful
- D. to be hopeful

11) How does Leonard seem to feel about what he has done?

- A. angry
- B. happy
- C. sad
- D. unsure

12) What does the police officer give Leonard?

- A. advice
- B. a handshake
- C. money to eat
- D. the one hundred dollars

13) What kind of man does the police officer seem to be?

- A. angry
- B. busy
- C. kind
- D. mean

If you found one hundred dollars, would you keep it? Why or why not?
