

## Rethinking Homelessness

### Learning Standards:

Use Social Studies inquiry processes and skills to ask questions; gather, interpret, and analyze ideas; communicate findings and decisions.

### Core Competencies:

**C** I can analyze complex social or environmental issues from multiple perspectives.

**T** I can analyze my own assumptions and beliefs and consider views that do not fit with them.

**PS** I take action to support diversity and defend human rights and can identify how diversity is beneficial for my community, including online.



**Learning Target:** Engaging with others to share and develop ideas.



**Share Video clip:** *Homelessness through a child's eyes* (0:53)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWO2vOpTMfg>

Invite students to respond to the clip, “What did you notice? What do you think? What do you wonder?”

**Co-constructing ideas:** Whole group conversation ~ Needs vs. Wants. What is the difference between things you **need** and things you **want**? Invite students to share their ideas.

Needs:	Wants:

**Photograph Boxing Strategy Mats:** model the way by sharing this image from the projector. Invite learners to notice, think and wonder; to communicate, think critically and respond to the photographs. Document student notices & wonders from the whole group. Next, share the remaining 5 photograph mats. Invite small groups of students to respond to the photographs in teams, collectively capturing thinking on post-it notes and sticking them to the photograph mats...

What do you notice? What do you wonder?



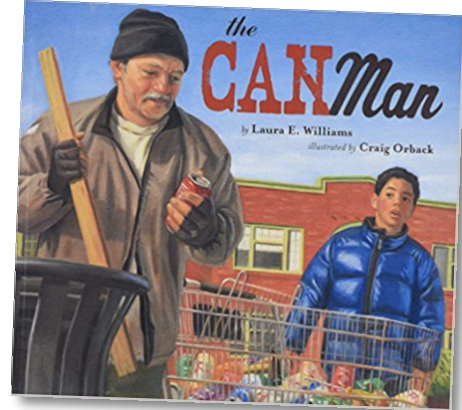
## Rethinking Homelessness

**Whole group reconnect:** Scroll through the photograph mats and invite students to share their notices and wonders. **Invite learners to consider, “How is my life, my day to day the same as this person’s? How is my life, my day to day different?”**

**Shared Read:** *The Can Man* by Laura E. Williams  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12H6qNcR2bU> (12:29)

**Before reading:** Set a purpose for listening and viewing: to find out who The Can Man is, what happens to him and the boy on the cover of the book, and what these two characters learn from each other.

*After watching a homeless man collect empty soft drink cans for the redemption money, a young boy decides to collect cans himself to earn money for a skateboard until he has a change of heart.*



**During reading:** While listening and viewing, invite learners to make connections, visualize, ask questions, and make inferences (large post-it notes).

**After reading ~ Q Card Turn and Listen:** Invite students to reflect on the story with a partner and a Q Card.

*Why do you think Tim begins calling Mr. Peter's by his name and not The Can Man?*

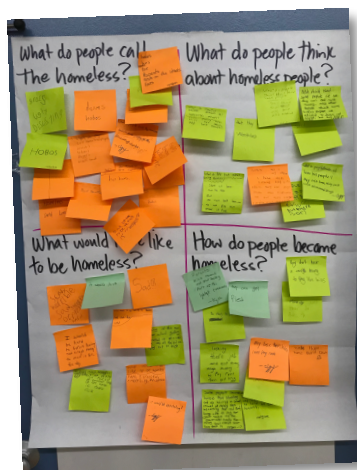
*Why did Tim give his money to Mr. Peters?*

*Do you think Tim made the right decision? Why or why not?*

*How does Mr. Peters use the money Tim gives him? How do you know?*

*Where do you think Mr. Peter's got the skateboard? What makes you think so?*

*What did you learn from this story? How might you turn what you learned into action?*



### Rethinking Homelessness: exploring our assumptions and perceptions

Invite students to consider the following 4 questions and to choose at least two to respond to on post-it notes:

*What do people call the homeless?*

*What do people think about homeless people?*

*What would it be like to be homeless?*

*How do people become homeless?*

Next, invite students to share their responses back to the whole group.

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**Share the clip:** HUMAN: Rethink Homelessness (1:18)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OMhA3z6YZ3w)

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Consider and discuss our perceptions vs. the realities of homelessness

*“If you ever meet a homeless person, engage them, encourage them...offer them hope. The human spirit can overcome anything if it has hope.”*

-from Becky Blanton, *The Year I was Homeless*

**Exit Slip:** Ask students to consider, “How has your thinking shifted? What can you be thankful for What can you do today?”.... *(be thankful for what I have... Make my bed... Thank my mom for supper...)*