

The Borrowing Club

Can sharing everyday objects change a school?

LEVEL B1

AGES 13–16

20–25 MIN

READ & RESPOND

BEFORE READING

Talk to a partner: What objects do you sometimes need but do not want to buy? Give one example.

READ THE STORY

At Northbridge Secondary School, students often needed equipment for projects and hobbies, but they didn't want to buy things they would use only occasionally. Last September, fifteen-year-old Maya suggested creating a Borrowing Club. Students could lend one another objects such as cameras, board games and camping equipment.

The club started with a single shelf in the school library and just twelve items. Students wrote their names on a form and borrowed an object for up to seven days. At first, teachers worried that things might be lost or damaged. To solve this problem, club members photographed each object before and after it was borrowed and checked that it worked.

After three months, the club had eighty items. A student borrowed a microphone for a podcast, while another used a tent during a weekend trip. One boy borrowed a sewing machine to repair his old backpack instead of buying a new one. The school also noticed that less rubbish was being thrown away.

However, the club was not perfect. Popular items were often unavailable, and some students forgot to return things on time. Maya and her friends created an online calendar to show when each object was free. They also organised a repair afternoon once a month.

Maya says the best part is not saving money. 'People who hardly spoke before are now helping each other,' she explains. Next year, the group hopes to invite families from the neighbourhood to join.

READING TIP

Read once for the general idea, then read again to find details. **Borrow** means to use something temporarily; **lend** means to let someone use it.

Check your understanding

Complete the tasks below. Your teacher can check your answers online.

A Multiple choice

Choose the correct option (A, B or C).

1. Why did Maya start the club?

- A To help students save money
- B To sell old school books
- C To organise sports teams

CLICK HERE TO CHOOSE A / B / C

2. How many items were there at first?

- A Twelve
- B Fifteen
- C Eighty

CLICK HERE TO CHOOSE A / B / C

3. What was the purpose of the photos?

- A To check the items' condition
- B To advertise the club
- C To prepare a school podcast

CLICK HERE TO CHOOSE A / B / C

4. What is the club planning for next year?

- A Buying new equipment
- B Moving to another school
- C Inviting local families

CLICK HERE TO CHOOSE A / B / C

D Think & share

Would this club work at your school? Name one object you could share.

TYPE A SHORT OPINION HERE

B True or false?

Select True or False for each statement.

5. Students could borrow an item for up to seven days.

TRUE / FALSE

6. Teachers were sure from the start that nothing would be damaged.

TRUE / FALSE

7. The club organises a repair afternoon every month.

TRUE / FALSE

8. For Maya, saving money is the club's greatest benefit.

TRUE / FALSE

C Words in context

Find ONE word in the story for each meaning.

9. from time to time, but not regularly

10. to fix something that is damaged

11. things that people throw away

12. the local area where people live