

Economic Mysteries

Part A: Vision 8, The Mystery of the Wasted Food

“Even before lunchtime, Gracie feels very hungry. When the lunch bell finally rings, Gracie hurries to the school lunchroom, grabs a tray, gets in line, receives her lunch, and finds a seat.

But before long, Gracie tosses most of her food into a waste container.

Why would hungry kids like Gracie throw away their food?

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| <p>Handy Dandy Guide (Economic Principles used to solve the Mystery)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People choose to do the things they think are best for them. 2. People’s choices have costs. 3. People choose to do things for which they are rewarded. 4. People create rules that affect our choices and how we act. 5. People gain when they freely decide to trade with one another. 6. People’s choices today have future results. | |
| <p>True False Questions (Clue/cues to solving the mystery – type out and answer):</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gracie hates to eat. False 2. American students enjoy wasting food. True 3. The food in the school cafeteria is often not popular with students. Eating it seems more like punishment than a reward. False 4. School cafeterias usually offer a wide range of choices from which students may choose what they like. False 5. Students usually pay for their school lunches with money from their allowances or money they earn by working around the house. True |
| <p>Solution to the Mystery (Use relevant Economic Vocabulary – see Principles and handouts):</p> | <p>Hours before the lunch bell rings, Gracie can feel her stomach growling for food. As soon as the bell rings for lunch Gracie is out of her seat and running down the hall toward the lunch room. She gets in line to order her room. However, Gracie only likes the fruit that is served with her lunch. She will never eat the main dish or the vegetables. The chef gives her a tray that has all three food items</p> |

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| | <p>on it. Each day she asks for extra fruit, and each day she is told that it is against school rules to give her extra. (4). The schools lunch policy is that each student must be given the same amount of food. This rule helps the school keep food cost to a minimum, (2), along with making sure that each student gets an equal amount, one severing size (1). After Gracie pays for her food, she goes to find a spot at the lunch table. Each day, she tries to trade food with friends so that she can get more fruit. (5). After Gracie is done eating her fruit; she gets up and throws away the rest of her food. Every day she walks out of the lunchroom still hungry. Each day Gracie claims that she will remember to pack a lunch from home (6), because than she will be able to eat food that she enjoys. (3)</p> |
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Part B: Write and Solve your own Economic Mystery

Title of your own mystery:

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| Handy Dandy Guide (Economic Principles used to solve the Mystery) | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People choose to do the things they think are best for them. 2. People’s choices have costs. 3. People choose to do things for which they are rewarded. 4. People create rules that affect our choices and how we act. 5. People gain when they freely decide to trade with one another. 6. People’s choices today have future results. | |
| Your original economic mystery scenario: | Every Thursday night, John takes his sail boat out for a sail. John is very lucky because he lives right on the Atlantic Ocean coast. John normally sails down to Charleston to get some dinner, and does not get back to his harbor until after dark. Each Thursday night the harbormaster waits for him to dock up to make sure he is back safety. |
| Focus Question: | John did not dock up one Thursday night, what happened to him? |
| True False Questions (Clue/cues to solving the mystery – create your own <u>and answer</u>): | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. John enjoys racing his sailboat. False 2. Included in his sailboat, he has a large first aid kit. True 3. It is the harbormasters job to wait till John gets back from his sail. True |

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| | 4. John normally sails alone. True |
| Solution to the Mystery (Use relevant Economic Vocabulary – see Principles and handouts): | <p>Every Thursday night John enjoys taking his sailboat out, and sailing down to Charleston for dinner. (1) Since John always sails down to Charleston, he normally has dinner at the Charleston Yacht Club because he can dock his boat right there. This Yacht Club is very high end, and rather expensive. Even with the extra cost, John still eats there because of the convenience. (2) Plus, about a month ago, John met a women, who he has been having dinner with each Thursday. Being one of the nicest Yacht Clubs, it is a rule that everyone who comes must be in dress clothes. With this rule, it focuses John to act very classic, in a way he wouldn't normally at home. (4) By acting so classic, John always gets a lot of positive attention from everyone at the Yacht Club. (3) John ended up staying a little later at dinner than he normally does. He started talking to a gentleman sitting next to him. This gentleman started telling John about how if he washed dishes in the kitchen he would get 50 percent off each bill. (5) John found this a wonderful opportunity, and went to talk with the manager. By the time John got back to his boat to leave, it was very dark. Being that the wind picks up extra at night, John thought he could make it home faster. One his way back home, the wind got so bad that John had to dock up somewhere, because his boat was starting to flip, and get out of control. John was lucky that he was able to find somewhere to dock up. After not being able to make it home that night, John decided it would be better to make sure he left before dark, or to just stay in Charleston next time. (6)</p> |