

Chapter 9 Inside the Black Bag



Negasi unlocks the door of his taxi again. He reaches across the backseat and picks up the black bag. Negasi opens it and stands under the streetlight. There is a lot of cash inside. "This is unbelievable," thinks Negasi. "That man left one of those bags in my taxi!"

Negasi puts the bag under his coat and walks up the stairs to his apartment. Ayana and the children are happy to see him. "Hi, Dad!" Desta says. "My new glasses are ready! We can pick them up tomorrow."

"That's nice," says Negasi. "But this time, you need to take better care of them."

"It wasn't my fault," says Desta. "Dawit stepped on them!"

"Leave your father alone," says Ayana. "He's tired now. Please let him eat. You two need to brush your teeth."



Negasi puts the black bag on the chair next to him. Then he sits at the table while Ayana helps the children get ready for bed. Negasi eats a few bites of food, but he isn't very hungry. After a few minutes, Ayana sits down at the table, too. "I was really worried about you," she says. "Did you have a hard day?"

"A very hard day," says Negasi. Then he picks up the bag, opens it, and spills a large pile of cash onto the table. "But a passenger gave me a very big tip."

Answer the questions.

1. What does Negasi reach across? What does he pick up?
2. What is inside? What does Negasi think?
3. Where does Negasi put the bag?
4. How are Ayana and the children?
5. What does Desta say about her new glasses?
6. Who stepped on them?
7. What does Ayana say to the children?
8. Where does Negasi put the black bag?
9. What does Ayana do while Negasi sits at the table?
10. How much does Negasi eat?

Complete the sentences.

spills
sits down

gave
puts

have
get ready

eats
picks up

1. Negasi _____ the black bag on the chair next to him.
2. Then he sits at the table while Ayana helps the children _____ for bed.
3. Negasi _____ a few bites of food, but he isn't very hungry.
4. After a few minutes, Ayana _____ at the table, too.
5. "I was really worried about you," she says. "Did you _____ a hard day?"
6. "A very hard day," says Negasi. Then he _____ the bag, opens it, and _____ a big pile of cash onto the table.
7. "But a passenger _____ me a very big tip."

Matching: Definitions

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| _____ 1. bites | a. money in the form of bills and coins |
| _____ 2. glasses | b. the responsibility for a mistake |
| _____ 3. fault | c. a light on a tall pole that is next to a street |
| _____ 4. cash | d. a collection of things in the shape of a small hill |
| _____ 5. pile | e. pieces of food you cut with your teeth |
| _____ 6. streetlight | f. things you wear to help you see |

Talking After a Hard Day

Practice the dialog with a partner.



A: Are the children in bed?

B: Yes, at last. I was really worried about you.

A: I know. Sorry about that.

B: Did you have a hard day?

A: A very hard day. But a passenger gave me a very big tip.

Matching

Match the words and pictures. Write the words on the lines below.

step on

unlock

reach



1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Listening

Listen. Check (✓) the correct sentence.

1. a. He forgot the bag.
 b. He gave the bag to Negasi.
2. a. He wants to show it to everyone.
 b. He hides it from everyone.
3. a. They can pick them up.
 b. They are still broken.
4. a. She can't wear them anymore.
 b. She can't put them on the floor.
5. a. Her brother broke them.
 b. Her brother needs glasses, too.
6. a. "Eat dinner with your father."
 b. "Leave your father alone."
7. a. He wants more food.
 b. He can't eat much.
8. a. He shows Ayana a \$10 tip.
 b. He shows Ayana a lot of money.

Pronunciation and Writing

Say the words from the story. Write the number of syllables in each word.
Underline the stressed syllable.

1. onto _____
2. tomorrow _____
3. children _____
4. table _____
5. father _____
6. isn't _____
7. hungry _____
8. unbelievable _____
9. ready _____
10. under _____
11. reaches _____
12. again _____
13. minutes _____
14. inside _____
15. wasn't _____

What about you?

Circle **Yes** or **No**. Then write questions and ask your partner.

Yes **No** 1. I walk up the stairs to my home.

Do you walk up the stairs to your home?

Yes **No** 2. I sometimes put bags under my coat.

Yes **No** 3. I always take care of my things.

Yes **No** 4. I want people to leave me alone while I eat.

Yes **No** 5. I sometimes help children get ready for bed.

Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. What kinds of things do people sometimes leave in taxis?
2. Do you sometimes step on things in your home? If so, what do you step on?
3. What things can happen when you have a hard day?