



Unit 5 Favorite things

Before you read

This article is about a popular TV show where people bring their special antiques (old possessions) and experts talk about them. Think about these questions. Do you have any antiques? Why do you keep them? Are they worth a lot of money?

Read the article

My Secret

Daily News/Inside Sports By Dan Stone

¹ I'm a sports writer and I love my job because I love sports, especially football and baseball. But I have a secret. Every Monday night I watch my favorite TV show. Sometimes the telephone rings, but I don't answer it. I tell my friends that I watch "Monday Night Football," but that isn't true.

² My favorite show is more exciting than a football game. It's also very educational. I learn a lot about art and U.S. history every week. Here is my secret: On Monday nights I watch "Antiques Roadshow." It's a show about antiques and collections. It's great!

³ The show travels from city to city. The guests on the show are real people. They bring in old art, furniture, books, toys, and other antique things they collect. First the guests tell the experts about their items. The stories are the best part of "Roadshow." Then the experts talk about the items. Finally, the experts say how much the people can sell the items for.

⁴ One woman, Veronica, had a painting of trees and animals. Veronica's grandmother got the picture for free in 1925. The expert looked at Veronica's picture carefully and said, "This is a very rare painting by the American artist Thomas Cole. Cole painted this around 1835. Your painting is worth \$125,000." Veronica was very surprised. "Wow!" she said. "That's a lot of money! But I don't really care about the money. I'm going to keep it because it reminds me of my grandmother."

⁵ I'm ready for "Antiques Roadshow" to come to my city. I have a baseball signed in the 1940s by Babe Ruth and Jackie Robinson. It's in perfect condition. I also have a baseball card collection. I'd like to hear if my autographed baseball and baseball cards are worth a lot of money!

⁶ And you . . . are you ready? Look carefully around your home! You might have something very valuable. And remember, don't call me on Monday nights. I'm watching "football."

Source: Adapted from *NorthStar: Focus on Reading and Writing, Introductory*, by John Beaumont, Longman



Build your reading skills: Reading for main ideas

Read the article again. Match each idea to the correct paragraph in the article. Write the number of the paragraph.

1. Experts talk about the items people bring to the show. 3
2. Dan Stone wants to bring some possessions to "Antiques Roadshow." _____
3. Dan Stone's favorite show is "Antiques Roadshow." _____
4. Dan Stone has a secret. _____
5. One woman had a valuable painting. _____

Check your comprehension

Circle the correct answer.

1. What do Stone's friends think he watches on Monday nights?
 a. football games
b. movies
c. the news
2. What do people learn about on "Antiques Roadshow"?
a. art and history
b. football and sports
c. cars and money
3. What do people bring to "Antiques Roadshow"?
a. old family photos
b. old personal items
c. old houses
4. For Stone, what is the best part of the show?
a. the stories
b. the money
c. the experts
5. What does Stone want to bring to "Antiques Roadshow"?
a. baseball players
b. a lot of money
c. baseball items