

Six-year-old helps out the recycling crew in his neighborhood

By Tribune Content Agency, adapted by Newsela staff on 02.17.21

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Henriks Lizenbergs is 6 years old. He rolls a recycling cart outside his home. He has been helping the garbage and recycling crew in his neighborhood since the pandemic started. Photo: E. Jason Wambsgans/Chicago Tribune/TNS

Henriks Lizenbergs is 6 years old. He lives in Illinois. Like many kids, Henriks is learning at home this year. His school is closed because of the coronavirus.

The coronavirus causes an illness. It is called COVID-19. This illness has spread around the world. Many schools are closed right now. They are trying to stop the virus from spreading more.

Learning at home is different from being at school. Every day can feel just the same. But Tuesday is a great day for Henriks. Every Tuesday, big trucks drive by his house. Some of the trucks pick up the garbage. Others pick up the recycling.

Helping Out And Making Friends

Henriks loves trucks. He could not wait for Tuesdays. He would watch the collectors pick up the garbage. One day, he decided to help.

First, he pulled his family's garbage cans out to the road. Then he started pulling out the neighbor's cans. Soon, Henriks was doing even more. He was helping with the whole block!

Henriks made friends with the recycling team. The men would talk with Henriks. Henriks would tell them about his day. The workers looked forward to seeing Henriks each week.

Part Of The Team

One Tuesday, they surprised him. Six trucks pulled up in front of Henriks' house! It was the whole team. The men gave Henriks a safety vest. They gave him a hard hat, too, just like the ones they wear. They also gave him an award. It was to thank him for all his help.

Henriks said it made him feel like part of the team.

Last Tuesday, Henriks found another surprise at his door. It was a box. Inside was a candle. The front had a photo on it. It was a photo of Henriks and the recycling team.

There was a note in the box, too. It said, "Teamwork makes the dream work."

It was from the recycling team!



Image 1. Henriks Lizenbergs helps empty a recycling bin in his neighborhood. Photo: E. Jason Wambsgans / Chicago Tribune/TNS



Image 2. Henriks Lizenbergs is greeted by the recycling crews he helps each week. Photo: E. Jason Wambsgans / Chicago Tribune/TNS

Write Prompt

Write a short paragraph that explains the central idea of the article. Use at least two details from the article to support your response.

Quiz

- 1 WHY does the recycling team feel thankful for Henriks?
- (A) because he is a good student
 - (B) because he is helpful and friendly
 - (C) because he likes to watch them work
 - (D) because he leaves bottles in recycling carts
- 2 Which sentence from the section “Helping Out And Making Friends” explains WHY Henriks likes to watch the collectors work?
- (A) Henriks loves trucks.
 - (B) One day, he decided to help.
 - (C) Henriks made friends with the recycling team.
 - (D) The workers looked forward to seeing Henriks each week.
- 3 What event happened AFTER the recycling team gave Henriks a safety vest and hard hat?
- (A) Henriks began to take all of his classes online.
 - (B) Henriks started pulling his family's garbage carts out to the road.
 - (C) The recycling team became good friends with Henriks.
 - (D) The recycling team gave Henriks a candle with a photo on it.
- 4 WHY did Henriks look forward to Tuesdays?
- (A) The garbage trucks came on Tuesdays.
 - (B) His online classes were more fun on Tuesdays.
 - (C) The recycling team always gave him awards on Tuesdays.
 - (D) He would talk to his neighbors on Tuesdays.