

Tuesday

2) Based on the information in the article, what is a refugee? Use two details from the text in your response.

3) Read the section "More Than 100 Readers Visit Every Week." Which choice below explains why books go missing from the library?

- (A) About 115 readers visit the library every week. So far, the library has loaned out 904 books.
- (B) Other times, the library lets people keep books so they can keep learning from them.
- (C) Visitors sit either inside the van or on benches outside. It depends on the weather.
- (D) Readers like to come for nighttime sessions. Sometimes the library van turns into a party bus!

Library-in-a-bus comes to refugee camp in Greece

By The Guardian, adapted by Newsela staff on 08.15.17

Word Count 616

Level 670L



A reader looks through the book collection inside the mobile library. Photo from Education Community Hope and Opportunity (ECHO).

- 1 Laura Samira Naude and Esther ten Zijthoff are volunteers. They help out at a refugee camp in Greece. Refugees are people who leave their home country. They leave to escape war and other terrible problems. Many stay in refugee camps in other countries until they can find a safe place to live.
- 2 While volunteering, Naude and Zijthoff realized something. The people they met needed more than food and shelter. They wanted to study and work for their future. They needed to find a sense of purpose.

Mobile Library Opens In Greece

- 3 The two women were determined to help. They would provide a quiet place where people could study and use their time well. The pair decided to start Education Community Hope and Opportunity, or ECHO for short. They opened a library on wheels.

- 4 Friends in the cities of London and Belgium raised money to make the van. They added shelves and computers into an old minibus. Then they drove the van to Greece.



- 5 Meanwhile, Naude and Zijthoff asked for book donations. They requested books in a variety of languages, including Arabic, Kurdish, Farsi, French, Greek and English. Slowly, they filled up the shelves.

Over 100 Readers Visit Every Week

- 6 The mobile library finally opened in November. It now has about 1,300 books. Not all of them fit on the shelves in the van, so some are kept in storage. About 115 readers visit the library every week. So far, the library has loaned out 904 books.

7 "We have also lost many books along the way," Zijthoff admits. Sometimes the books go missing. Other times, the library lets people keep books so they can keep learning from them. This is especially true for language-learning books. "We let people keep them and then make copies to keep up with the demand," says Zijthoff.

8 Visitors sit either inside the van or on benches outside. It depends on the weather. Zijthoff says that when Greece had freezing winter weather, the van was sometimes warmer than the tents in the camp. "People would come inside just to get warm," she says.

Now, in the summer, the days are hot. Readers like to come for nighttime sessions.

- 9 Sometimes the library van turns into a party bus! "But we do try to keep the library sessions peaceful," Zijthoff says.

Learning A New Language

- 10 Sometimes the people running the refugee camps won't allow the bus to drive in. When that happens, the women park the bus outside the camp. They wait for word to spread inside. Still, they are often shut down without warning. But those who make it to the library love it. Children say it feels like home. A professor from the country of Syria used the library to translate his work into English. A group of young people from Afghanistan wanted to learn English. They used the library to start language classes. Some refugees have even donated their own books.



Bringing Idea To Other Countries

- 11 Zijthoff and Naude have high hopes for the future of their library on wheels. They both work there full time and for no pay. A couple of other volunteers help them.
- 12 Zijthoff says that when they started the library, they had an idea of doing the same kind of thing in many places across Greece. They think the setup could work very well in other places. This type of library could find success in other countries, too. Countries including Serbia, Italy, the Palestinian Territories and Lebanon all have refugee camps.
- 13 "We hope that the concept will spread," Zijthoff says.