



The time is one o'clock in the morning.
The place is the Ritesville town **art gallery**.

A window opens and a man comes in. His name is Harry Black, and he is a **thief**.

It is dark in the art gallery, but Harry has a light. He looks across the room at a **painting**.



art gallery /'ɑ:t ,gæləri/ (n) There are beautiful pictures in the *art gallery*.
thief /θif/ (n) The *thief* has my bag—and my money.
painting /'peɪntɪŋ/ (n) It is a very expensive *painting* of a young man.

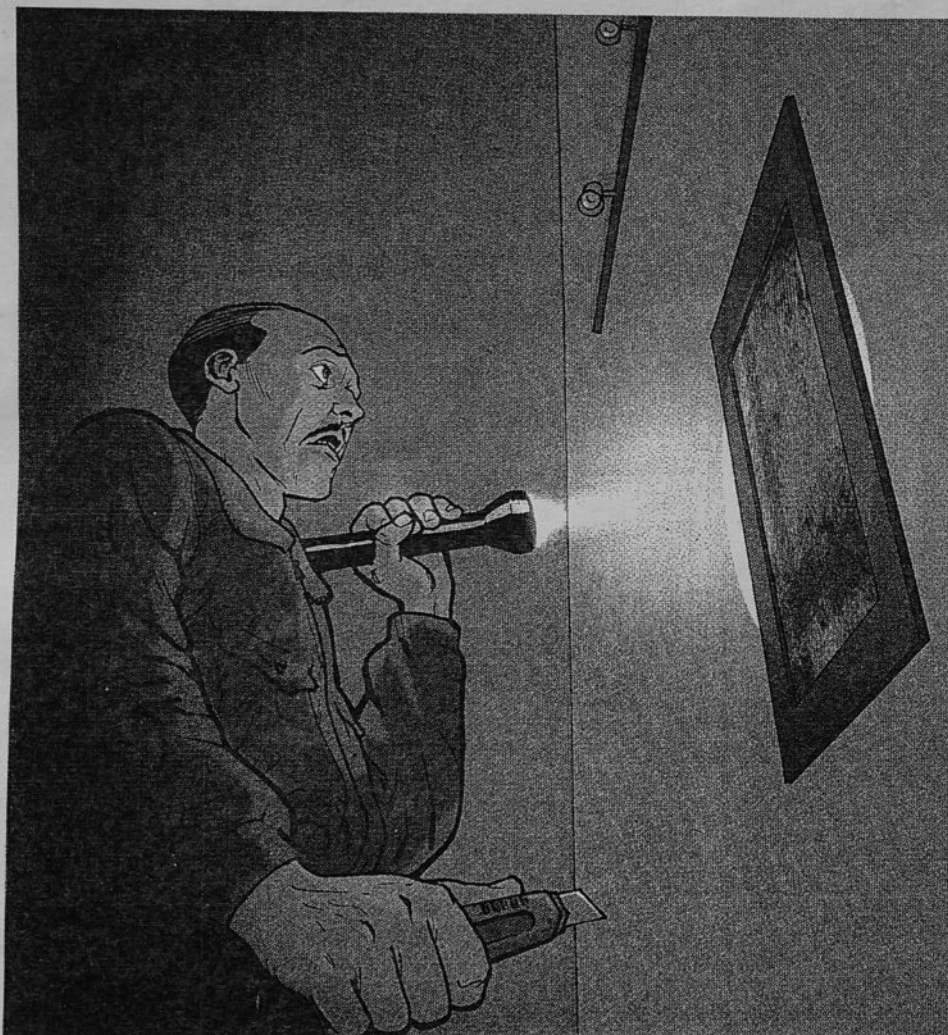
"There it is!" he says.

Harry moves quickly across the room. He stands and looks at the painting.

"A **million** dollars for this?" he thinks. "I don't understand it."

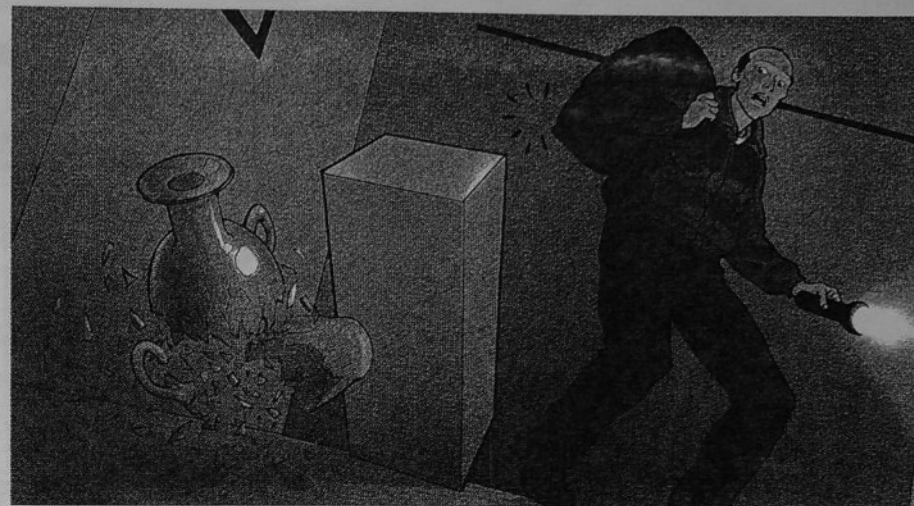
But he takes a knife from his coat.

Then he takes the painting very, very slowly from its **frame**.



million /'mɪljən/ There are sixty *million* people in the UK.

frame /freɪm/ (n) There is no *frame* on that picture.



Harry goes back across the room to the window, but he walks into a table. There is a beautiful blue **glass vase** on the table. It falls on the floor and **breaks** into a hundred **pieces**.

Harry smiles. "Is that a million-dollar vase?" he thinks. "It isn't now!"

He runs across the pieces of glass to the window.

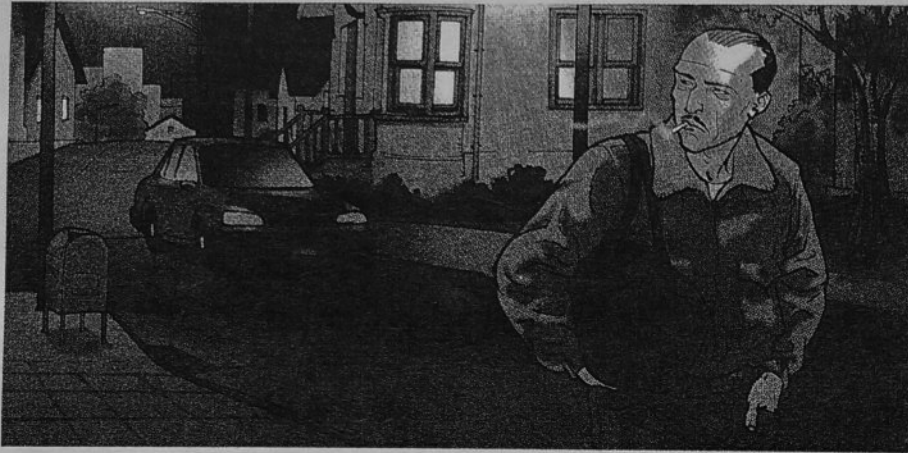


glass /glæs/ (n) There is *glass* from the window on the kitchen floor.

vase /veɪs, veɪz, vɑːz/ (n) Please put some water in the *vase*.

break /breɪk/ (v) The children *break* a window and then they run away.

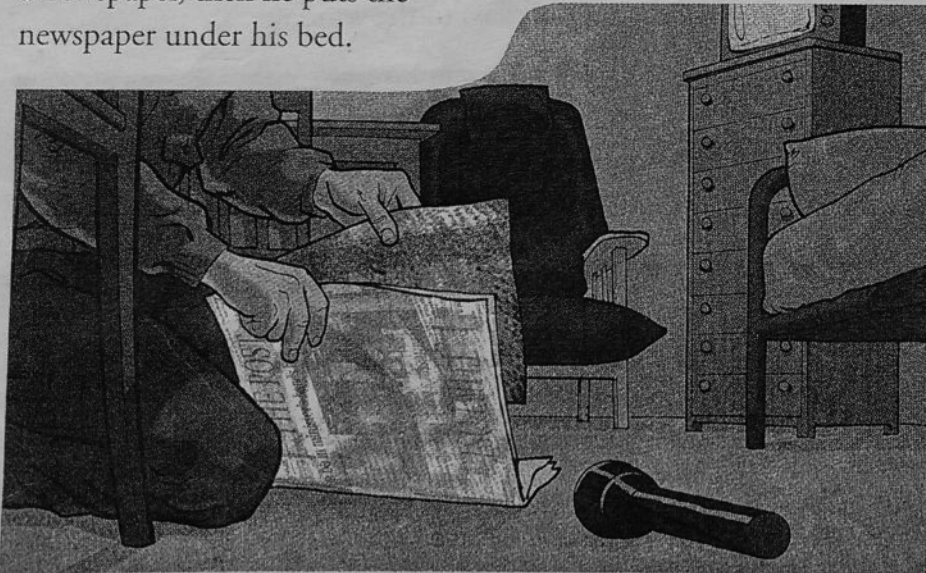
piece /piːs/ (n) Can I have a *piece* of fruit, please?



Harry has a room in Mrs. Allen's **rooming house**. He goes quietly up to his room and closes the door.

Mrs. Allen and her daughter, Janey, are sleeping. They don't hear him.

In his room, Harry takes the painting from his bag. He puts it in a newspaper, then he puts the newspaper under his bed.



rooming house /'ru:mɪŋ haʊs/ (n) I live in a *rooming house* from Monday to Friday.

In the morning, Janey Allen is in the kitchen. She is putting old bottles into a **box**.

"**Recycling** is important," Janey thinks.

On the TV, a **reporter** is at the Ritesville art gallery. He is talking about the painting.

"It's a million-dollar painting," he is saying. "Here's a photo of it."



box /bɒks/ (n) Her letters are in a *box* on the table.

recycle /rɪ'saɪkl/ (v) We *recycle* bottles. There are two places for *recycling* in this town.

reporter /rɪ'pɔ:tə/ (n) She is a *reporter* for a U.S. newspaper.

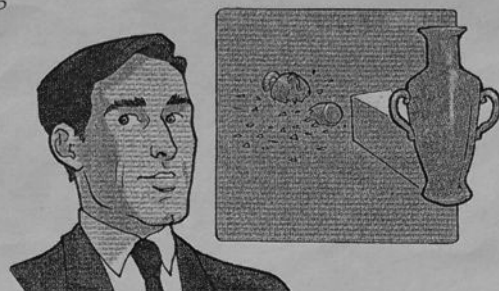
Now the reporter is talking about the blue glass vase.

"It's in a hundred pieces now," he says.

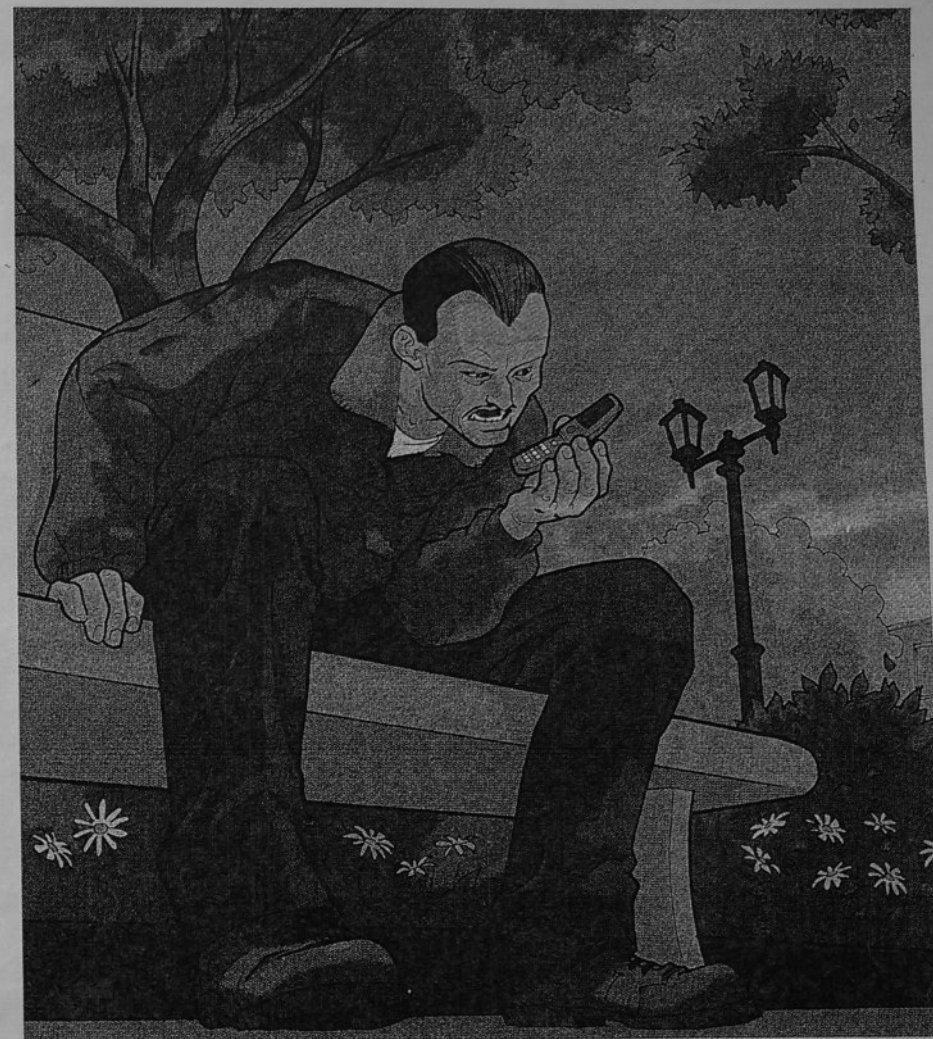
Janey looks at the photo of the vase, then she asks her mother, "Do you have any old bottles?"

"No," Mrs. Allen says. "That's all, Janey. But the newspaper recycling **truck** is coming today."

"Of course!" Janey says. "It's Friday!"



truck /trʌk/ (n) We are moving the beds to our new house in a friend's *truck*.



Harry isn't in his room. He is talking on his telephone to a man in Seattle. The man wants the painting, but Harry isn't happy.

"Five **thousand** dollars?" Harry says. "No! It's a million-dollar painting! ... What? ... No, I want *fifty* thousand, not five! ... What? ... The painting? Yes, I have it, and it's OK."

thousand /ˈθaʊzənd/ The big televisions are one *thousand* dollars.



Janey is looking for old newspapers. Early on Friday mornings, she takes them from every room in the house. Then later, the newspaper recycling truck arrives.

Janey opens Harry's door and looks into his room. She always takes his old newspapers or bottles for recycling.

"Ah!" she thinks. "There's a newspaper under Harry's bed."



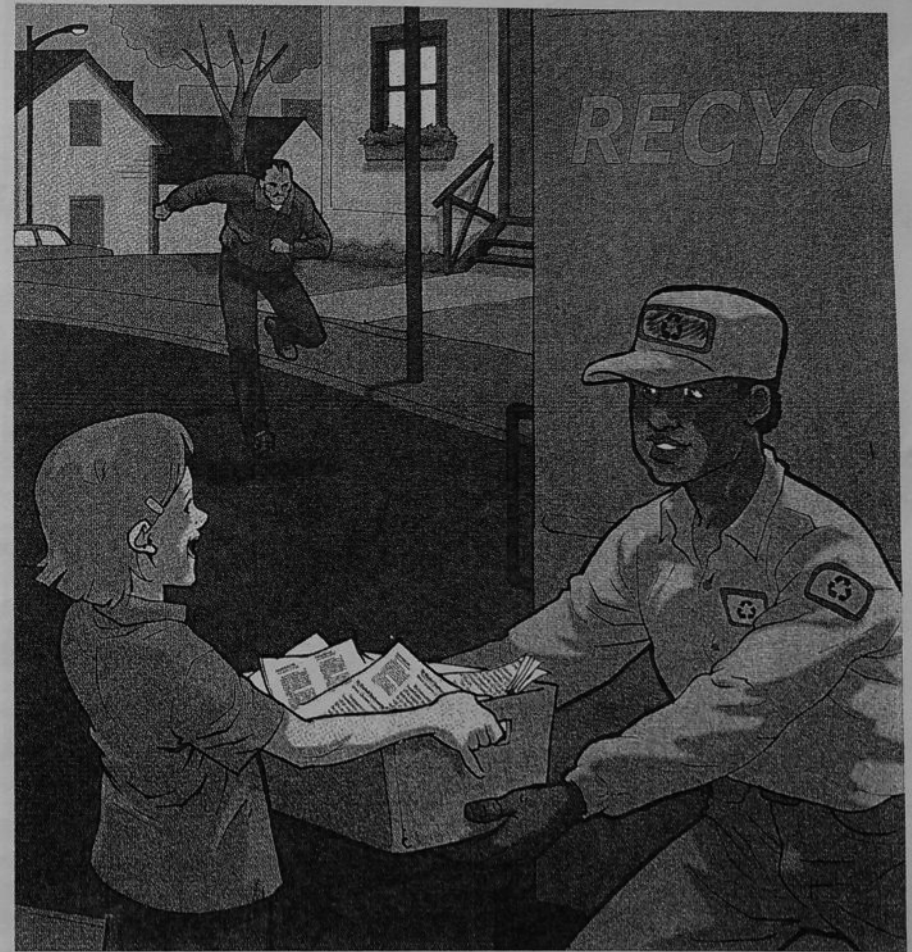
Janey puts the old newspapers into a black recycling box. She runs from the house and sees the truck.

"Wait!" she says. And she quickly gives the box to one of the men.

Harry is coming back to the house. He sees the recycling truck, and he sees Janey.

"It's Friday!" he says. "The newspaper—! Oh, no!"

Harry **chases** after the truck.



chase /tʃeɪs/ (v/n) The police are *chasing* two men in a blue car.
to follow quickly in order to catch.



"Wait! Wait!" he says.

Janey watches him. "What *is* he doing?" she thinks.

Harry **jumps** into the back of the truck.

"I want my newspaper!" he says. "Where's my newspaper?"

But there are thousands of newspapers in the truck.

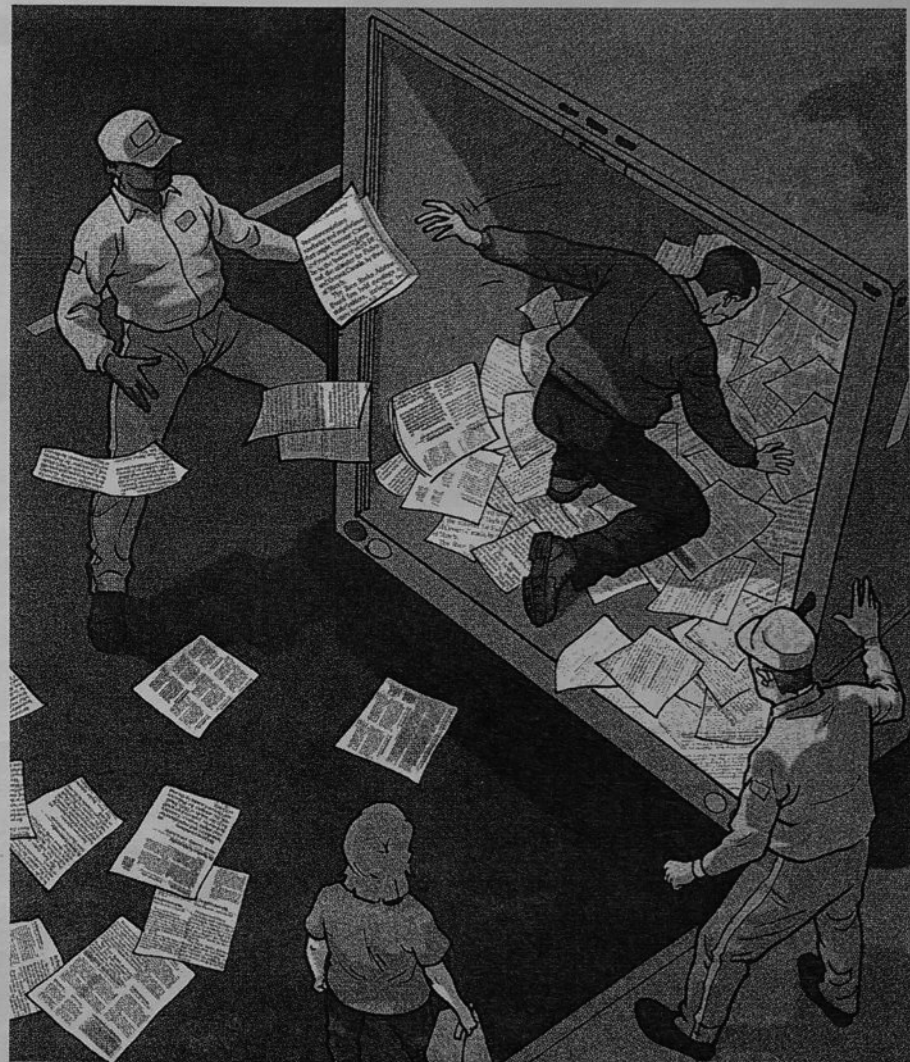


jump /dʒʌmp/ (v) Can you *jump* from the chair onto the table?

Janey walks quickly from the house to the truck.

"Why is your newspaper important, Harry?" she asks. "It's two days old."

But Harry doesn't hear her. He is thinking, "My million-dollar painting! Where is it?"



dollar /ˈdɒlə/ (n) Two coffees? That's four dollars, please.



The men from the recycling truck are watching Harry, too.
But now Janey is looking at Harry's shoe.



"There's some blue glass in
Harry's shoe," Janey thinks.
"Where—? Oh!"

Suddenly, she **remembers** the
photo of the blue glass vase on
the TV. She looks again at the
piece of glass in Harry's shoe.

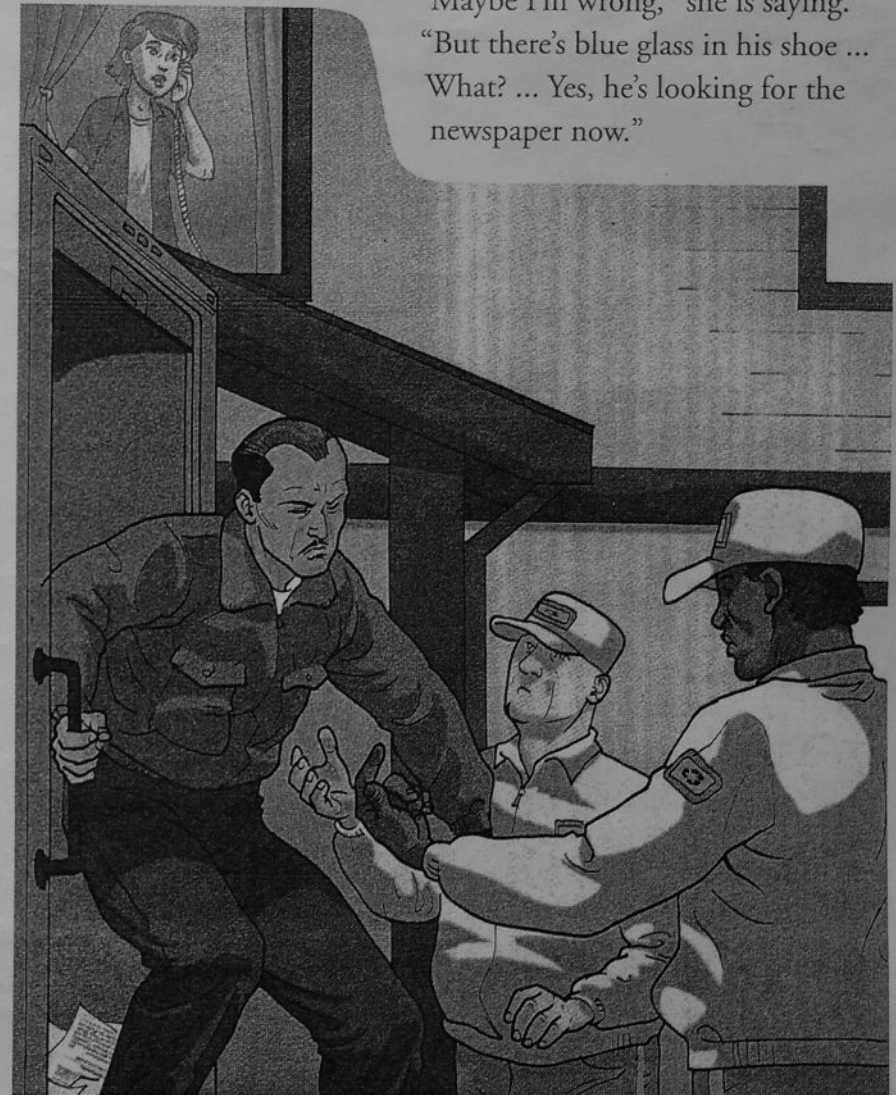
"Is it from the vase in the art
gallery?" she thinks. "Is Harry
Black the thief?"

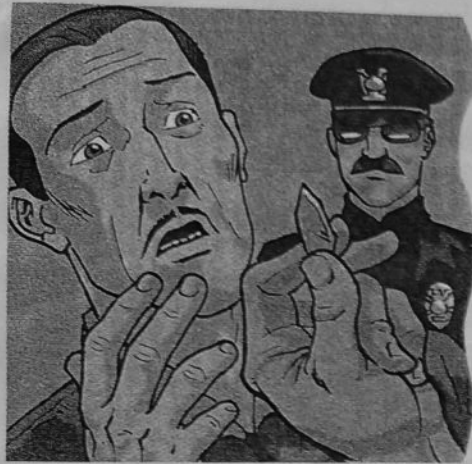
remember /rɪ'membə/ (v) He *remembers* his mother, but not his father.

The men from the recycling truck are angry.
"We're going now," they are saying. "We're late."
"But I want my newspaper!" Harry says.

In the house, Janey is talking to the police on the telephone.

"Maybe I'm wrong," she is saying.
"But there's blue glass in his shoe ...
What? ... Yes, he's looking for the
newspaper now."





Two policemen arrive quickly.
“Let’s look at your shoe,” they say to Harry.

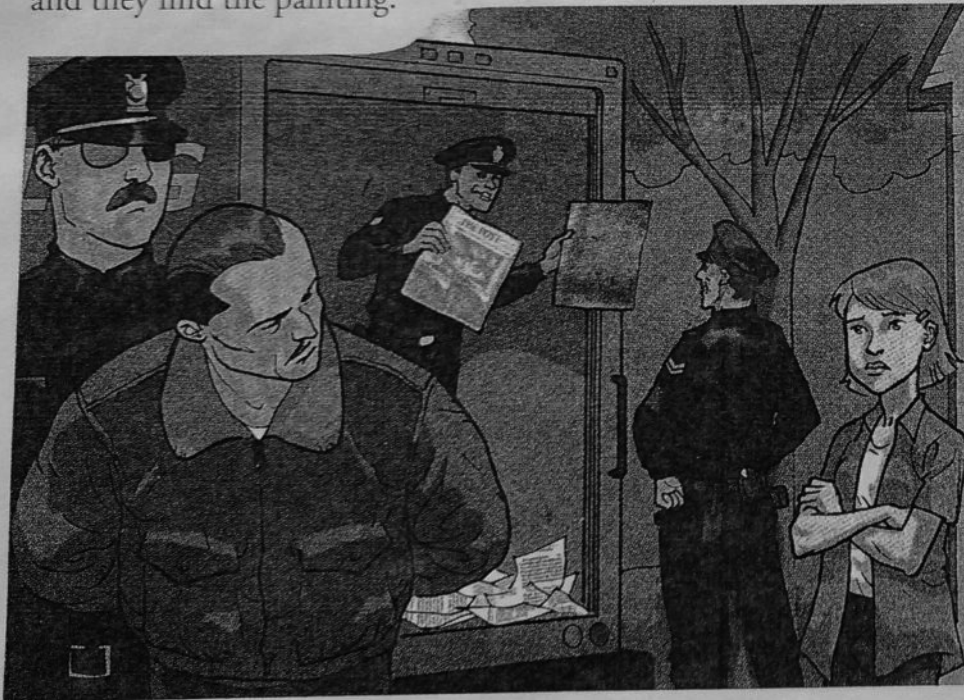
Harry doesn’t understand.
“What’s wrong?” he asks.

One of the policemen takes the glass from Harry’s shoe.

“This is a very expensive piece of glass,” he says.
“From a very expensive vase. Remember?”

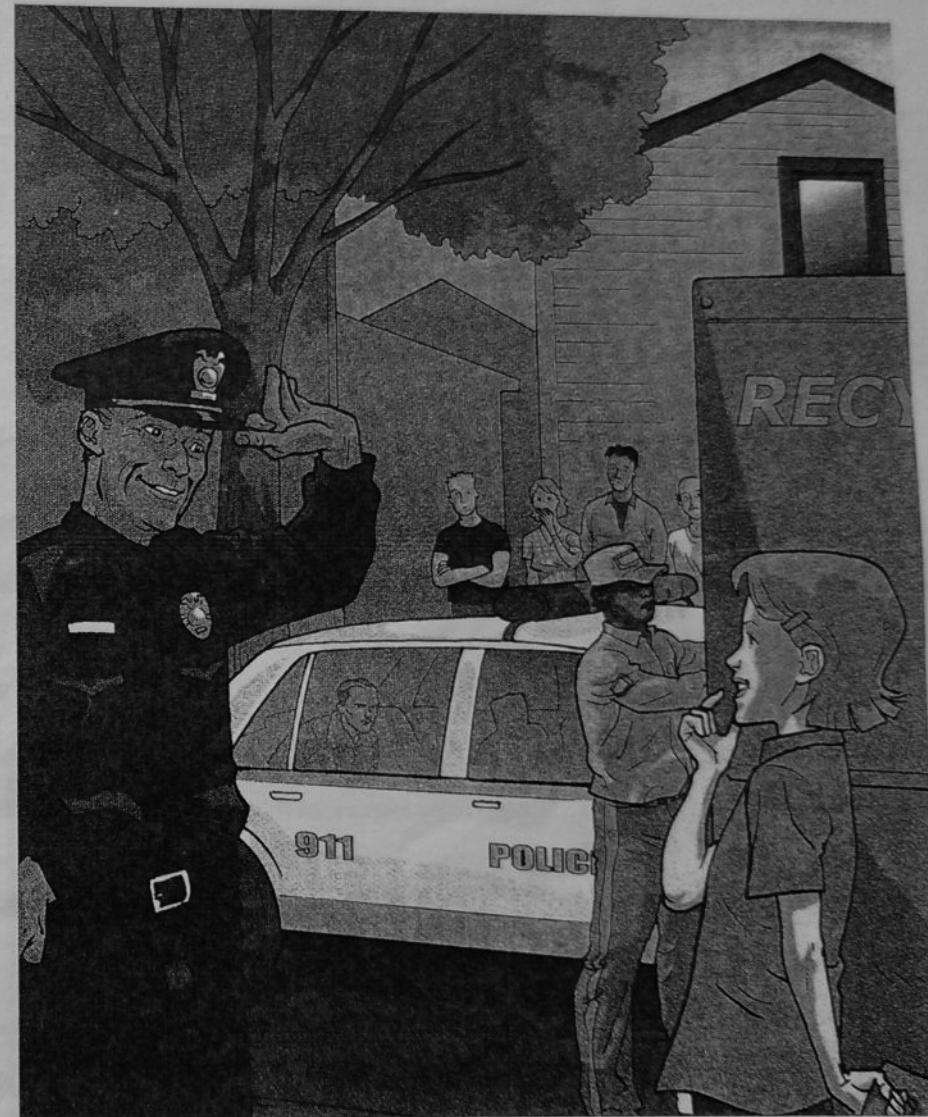
Suddenly, Harry understands. “Oh, no!” he says.

Police cars and policemen arrive. The men look in the truck for the million-dollar painting. Later, they find the right newspaper—and they find the painting.



“Good work, Janey,” one of the policemen says. “And there’s a reward.”

“Maybe I can buy a painting with the reward!” Janey says.
“I like pictures!”



reward /rɪˈwɜːd/ (n) They are looking for the child. There is a \$20,000 reward.