

READ UP! • FOLLOW UP! • HOT SHOT!

MAGAZINE

News articles

Cool stories

**What to watch
and read...**

Engaging interviews

TOPICS

SECONDARY 4

Excerpt

Fun quizzes

& questionnaires!

CHENELIÈRE
ÉDUCATION

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A HERO?

The thing about being a hero is that you never know when you will be faced with having to make a choice. A difficult situation could arise at any moment. Sometimes you're called upon to do something out of the ordinary or that might even put you in danger.

We all like to think we'd **rise to the occasion**. There's no way to know for sure until it happens, but we can all be inspired by the incredible bravery and quick thinking displayed by a 17-year-old youth in Montréal who acted to save someone in danger.

This is the story of Malyk Bonnet. The teenager had just finished his evening **shift** working as a cook at a Montréal restaurant. As he waited for his bus sometime around midnight, he noticed a man and a woman arguing nearby, and it looked serious. Others had noticed the scene as well, but no one tried to intervene. The couple approached Malyk and asked for money to take the bus to Laval. He agreed to help them. During a moment when the man was **out of earshot**, the woman told Malyk that she was being kidnapped. He could tell that she was very afraid.

Malyk could have ignored what was happening and told himself, "It's not my problem." But he didn't. The teen did some very quick thinking and decided to be

friendly with the man. Malyk said he was headed to Laval too, and he offered to go with them even though it was nowhere near where he lived.

And so, instead of walking away and taking the bus home, he got on another bus with the couple. Malyk later explained that he had already worked out a plan.

During the ride, the man continued to be verbally abusive to the woman, and he told Malyk some pretty scary stories. At one point, he told Malyk that he was in the mafia and that he had killed someone. He must have felt comfortable with the teen because he went on to confess that he had just been released from prison.

All of this was happening in a city bus full of other passengers. No one tried to help, even though it was possible for everyone to hear and understand what was going on.

Malyk stuck with his plan. He didn't **antagonize** the man. Instead, he acted like he was impressed by what the man was telling him. When they got off the bus, they started walking on smaller side streets. The man started getting more violent with the woman and threatening her life.

NO ONE TRIED TO HELP, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR EVERYONE TO HEAR AND UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS GOING ON.

Malyk did his best to calm him down, but he could tell the man was very angry. At that point, he decided the best move was to get them to a public place where the man would be less likely to be violent. He spotted a Tim Hortons.

Malyk convinced them to get something to eat. Once inside, he gave the man \$50 and told him to order whatever he wanted. When the woman went to the washroom, Malyk said he had to go too. He needed a moment to speak with her alone.

GLOSSARY

rise to the occasion: take action in a crisis
shift: work period
out of earshot: not close enough to hear
antagonize: oppose, annoy



The woman told Malyk she was terrified and that the man would try to hurt her again. Malyk reassured her that he was going to help. To do that, he needed a phone to call the police. Then he could keep them in the relative safety of the crowded restaurant until the police arrived.

Malyk asked people if he could borrow their phone to call 911 because he didn't have a phone of his own. Two people refused, saying they didn't want to get involved. But Malyk continued to think quickly without panicking. He asked the next person if he could use their phone to call a taxi. It worked. Instead of dialling a cab, he called 911, told them where he was and explained the situation.

While Malyk waited for the police to show up, the man became impatient and said he wanted to leave. Malyk dug into his wallet

and spent another \$120 on sandwiches, doughnuts, coffee and whatever else he could think of to keep the three of them there. As it happened, it was the man's first meal since getting out of prison! He ate every last bit of the food on their table. The plan was working.

When the man left the table to use the washroom, Malyk was able to tell the young woman that help was on the way. Police arrived, and it turned out they were looking for the man because the woman had been reported missing. The man was arrested at 2:00 a.m. and the **ordeal** was finally over.

The police declared Malyk a hero and even started a collection to reimburse him for the money he had spent on bus fare and food. He and his family were invited to tour the Laval Police headquarters. Malyk was

also nominated for an award from the department for his bravery.

WHEN THE MAN LEFT THE TABLE TO USE THE WASHROOM, MALYK WAS ABLE TO TELL THE YOUNG WOMAN THAT HELP WAS ON THE WAY.

WHAT MAKES A HERO?



Dr. Theresa Bianco, a psychology professor at Concordia University, was interviewed about Malyk's heroic actions. She explained that the poise, courage and quick thinking the 17-year-old displayed had nothing to do with physical bravery, but everything to do with psychological fortitude.

Malyk's actions required psychological strength as well as great maturity and intelligence. The teenager knew, for instance, that he had to find a way to "connect" with the man and gain his trust. He also sensed when the man's anger was rising and knew to get them to a public space.

But what made Malyk different from the many other people who witnessed what was happening that night and did nothing? According to Dr. Bianco, it's so much easier for people to choose to be **bystanders** rather than try to help. And that's healthy because intervening can mean putting yourself at risk.

Not everyone reacts the same way to a dangerous situation. But staying on the sidelines also means expecting somebody else to take action.

Malyk, she explained, clearly understood the risks and decided he could handle the situation. But what struck Dr. Bianco more than anything else about this incredible story was the empathy he showed for a total stranger, a woman he didn't even know. He could relate to her and the fear she was feeling.

According to Dr. Bianco, that empathy is what gave Malyk Bonnet the courage to be a hero that night. ✚

GLOSSARY

ordeal: difficult experience

bystanders: witnesses



How to Deal with AWKWARD SITUATIONS, According to the Zodiac

Nobody likes awkward situations. Who wouldn't do whatever they could just to avoid them? Admit it, you try to avoid cringeworthy scenarios at all costs. We all do. Here's a look at how people born under each zodiac sign tend to react to awkward situations. See if you recognize yourself!

ARIES March 21–April 19




There's nothing like an awkward situation to melt away the Arian's natural confidence and maturity! Once **flustered**, they may manage to make the situation even *more* awkward! With experience, Arians learn how to expertly avoid awkward scenarios.

TAURUS April 20–May 20



Bravely facing the awkward situation head on, a Taurus will **rack** their brain to find a way of turning a bad situation into a good one. Their confident and optimistic attitude might surprise others.

GEMINI May 21–June 21



Finding themselves in an awkward situation they were too clumsy to avoid, the Gemini will quickly resort to preserving their reputation. They might be dying on the inside but they will act cool and **composed** as if their life depends on it!

CANCER June 22–July 22




Being sensitive and emotional by nature, a Cancer may find the awkward situation to be a bit too much. This can lead to nervous actions and perhaps crying. But it could also have the desired effect of distracting others from the original uncomfortable interaction.

LEO July 23–August 22




Leos will deal with the awkward situation as if they were in control of it all along. The next best thing to being on top of things is just to pretend you are: Fake it till you make it, as the saying goes!

VIRGO August 23–September 22




Awkward situations are met with a smile and a shrug. To a Virgo, there's nothing like cracking a little joke to distract from the awkwardness and lighten the mood.

LIBRA September 23–October 23




They prefer to **neutralize** the situation and try to smooth over any awkwardness. But Libras will quickly seek the exit if it looks like their efforts are failing.

SCORPIO October 24–November 21




Running away is not Scorpio's style. They will confront the awkward situation and bravely pretend it doesn't exist!

SAGITTARIUS November 22–December 21



Not one to get their feathers ruffled, the Sagittarian will remain calm and composed in the most awkward situations. Did someone say "awkward"? Hmm, Sagittarius didn't notice!

AQUARIUS January 20–February 18




Aquarians prefer to go down the route of denial or rationalization. The Aquarian chooses to see things from a perspective that will help them minimize it!

CAPRICORN December 22–January 19



Like Virgos, Capricorns will tend to laugh in the face of awkwardness. Thick skin helps them stay unflustered, while **tunnel vision** keeps them from examining the reactions of others too closely.

PISCES February 19–March 20



Some Pisces might actually get offended that others would be so rude as to create an awkward situation. Like Capricorns, their revenge may be a joke, but a more **barbed** one.

GLOSSARY

flustered: agitated, confused
rack: intensely search
composed: under control

neutralize: ease, soften
tunnel vision: narrow focus
barbed: sharp, stinging

Want to know **more** about making decisions?

1. *Anne Frank's Diary: The Graphic Adaptation* (2017), by Anne Frank, adapted by Ari Folman, graphic novel

Anne Frank wrote in her diary for two years while hiding with her family during World War II. This comic brings the diary to life. What do you think you would do in such an extraordinary situation?

2. *Romeo and/or Juliet: A Chooseable-Path Adventure* (2018), by Ryan North, novel

It's Romeo and Juliet except that you choose where the story goes every time you read! There are more endings than you can imagine. Which one will you choose?

3. *You vs. Wild: Out Cold* (2021), interactive television series

Bear Grylls survives a plane crash in the icy mountains. But he must save his missing pilot and make it out alive. Can you make the right choices for him and his pilot in this interactive experience?

4. *What Would You Do?* (2008–2022), reality television series

Observe how ordinary people behave when they are confronted with ethical dilemmas. Do they walk away, or do they take action?

5. *Megamind* (2010), directed by Tom McGrath, animated film

After supervillain Megamind defeats his arch-enemy, life loses its fun. To get back the spark, he creates a new superhero nemesis, Titan. But what happens when Titan decides it's more fun to be a supervillain?

Crossword?

OUT IN *THE WORLD*

Do you know how to talk about being out in the world?
Complete the crossword puzzle using vocabulary in the Word Box to find out.
Find the correct answers on page 59.

Down

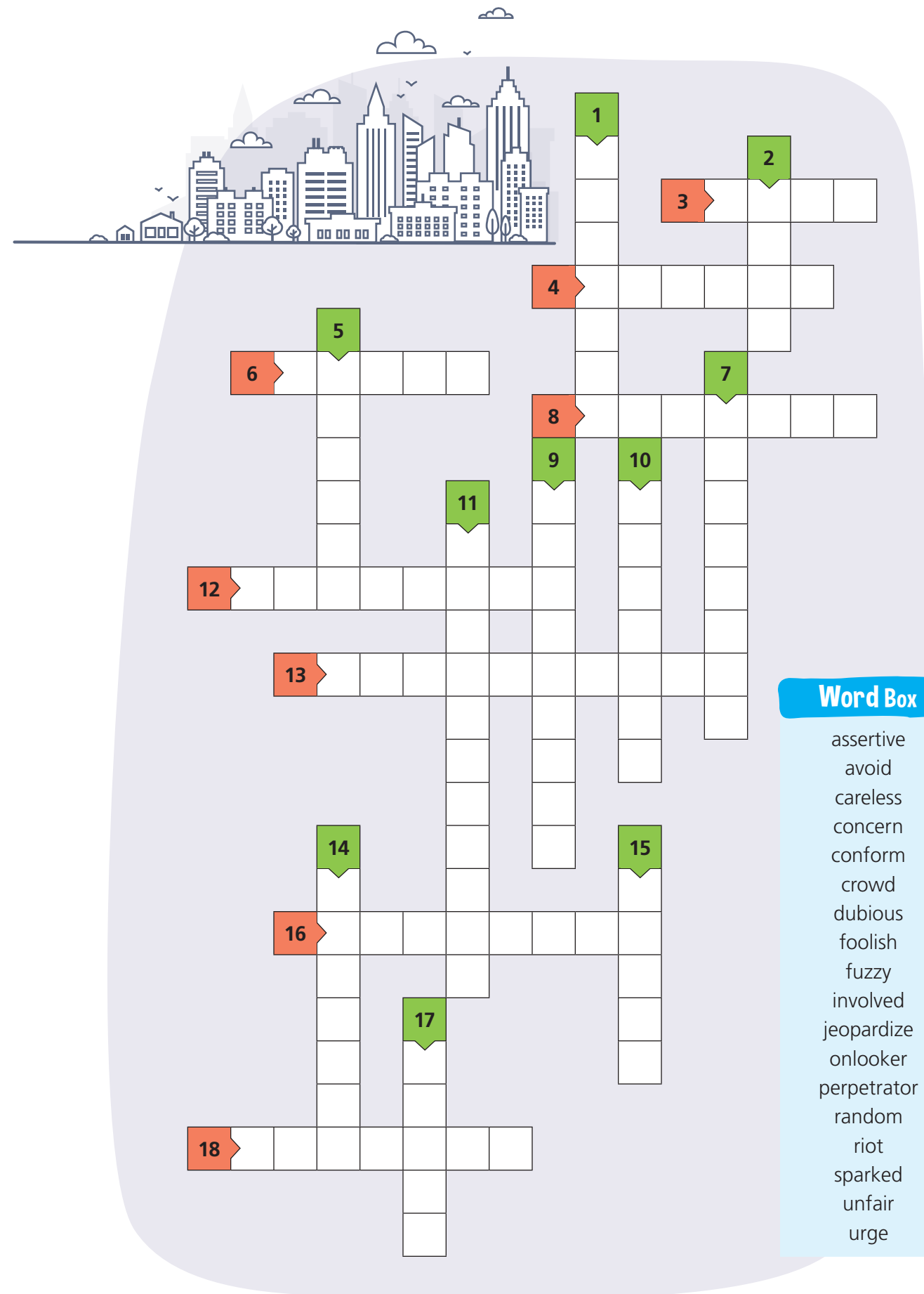
1. inspired
2. violent public protest
5. unjust
7. implicated
9. confident in making decisions
10. unwise
11. person responsible for criminal act
14. worry
15. group of people
17. evade

Across

3. strong desire or impulse
4. by chance
6. unclear
8. uncertain, questionable
12. not prudent
13. risk losing something
16. witness
18. follow the group

Word Box

assertive
avoid
careless
concern
conform
crowd
dubious
foolish
fuzzy
involved
jeopardize
onlooker
perpetrator
random
riot
sparked
unfair
urge



UPSHOT

SECONDARY 4

READ UP

- Find out why Sean Aiken worked 52 jobs in 52 weeks.
- Fall into a fantastical world of Irish mythology.
- Learn about how a scientist landed a job with the NBA.

Read these stories, articles and more!



FOLLOW UP

Want to know more? Look inside for over 20 book, graphic novel and film recommendations that you've got to read and see!



HOT SHOT

- Do you know your rights in the workplace?
- Who are you in a mystery story?
- Can you figure out who hacked your account?

Test your smarts and reveal your personality with fun quizzes, puzzles and trivia questions.

