

# Santa Ana High School Article of the Week #6

## Students Surprise Bullied Deaf Teen Whose Backpack Was Dumped in Toilet (1050L)

**Learning Target:** *Students will generate questions about ideas, arguments, analyses, perspectives, or the rhetorical presentation of text for the purpose of making an informed response to what others say.*

**Instructions: READ and ANNOTATE using CLOSE reading strategies.**

**Step 1: Skim** the article using these symbols as you read:

(+) agree, (-) disagree, (\*) important, (!) surprising, (?) wondering

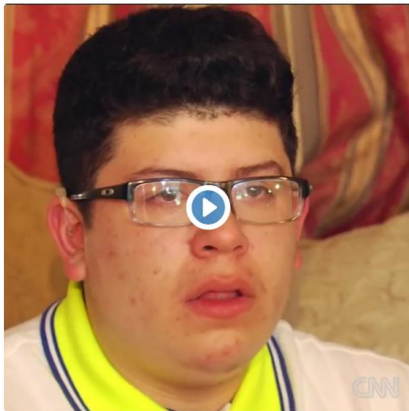
**Step 2: Number** the paragraphs. **Read** the article **carefully** and **make notes in the margin**.

Notes should include:

- Comments that show that you **understand** the article. (A summary or statement of the main idea of important sections may serve this purpose.)
- Questions you have that show what you are **wondering** about as you read.
- Notes that differentiate between **fact** and **opinion**.
- Observations about how the **writer's strategies** (organization, word choice, perspective, support) and choices affect the article.

**Step 3: A reread** noting anything you may have missed during the first read.

Students Surprise Bullied Deaf Teen Whose Backpack Was Dumped in Toilet



*Click on image to access video*



*Scan QR code to access video*

The Internet was **slammed** with an ugly reminder last week when the story of how a deaf high school senior's belongings ended up in a toilet went viral: bullies still exist.

Alex Hernandez's sister, Analy Luevano, couldn't stay silent when he told her two students stole his backpack from the lunch room.

"[It] contained not only his tablet, debit card, and school supplies but it also contained homework and a project he worked really hard at," she posted on Facebook, sharing a photo of his soaked school supplies. "It was later all found but this is what they did with his school supplies and

*Notes on my thoughts, reactions and questions as I read:*

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homework.”

The Burke High School senior from Omaha, Nebraska, said he wanted to transfer schools after the incident.

But his **peers** are hoping their act of kindness will change his mind.

Students started raising money with a GoFundMe page to help replace some of the damaged items. They quickly reached their goal; and with an overflow of donations pouring in every minute, the creator has already shut down the page.

“Due to the increase and high donations we decided to stop the fundraiser,” one of the students who apparently created the fundraising page tweeted. “We raised enough money for the student to replace his school supplies!”

The student was blown away by the support.

“I wanted to thank all of my friends and those who wrote me for supporting me,” Hernandez told CBS affiliate KMTV. “I am very happy. It made me feel like I am not alone.”

Hernandez, who has been deaf since age 1, says he has endured years of bullying because of his disability, KMTV reports.

The Omaha Public School District is taking steps to ensure something like this never happens again.

“Our goal is to ensure that the student whose backpack was stolen feels comfortable and supported at Burke High School,” Omaha Public Schools Superintendent said in a news release. “He is here with teachers, staff and a school community who love and support him, and we will continue to do so.”

After several interviews with students, school administrators said in a statement that they believe the students involved didn’t know each other, and that “students targeted an unattended backpack versus an individual student.”

Regardless, Hernandez’s mom says there has to be consequences.

“It’s not fair that the bullies think they can continue with this behavior,” she told KMTV. “Today was my kid - tomorrow will be somebody else’s.”

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**Comprehension questions – answers may be in phrases.**

1. *List five items that were in the backpack.*
  
2. *Define **peers** as used in the article.*
  
3. *Explain the phrase “ugly reminder.”*
  
4. *Define **slammed** as used in the text.*

**Answer each question in one or more complete sentences and by providing complete explanations.**

5. *Based on the information in the text, do school officials believe the victim was a random target? What evidence in the text supports this? In your opinion, is it likely that the incident was random, or did the bullies seek a specific victim?*
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. *A similar report about this incident stated, “In four days, 30 people raised \$830 of an \$800 goal on a GoFundMe page set up for Hernandez. Approximately, how much was raised per day? How much, on average, would each individual have donated to reach the total of \$830?”*