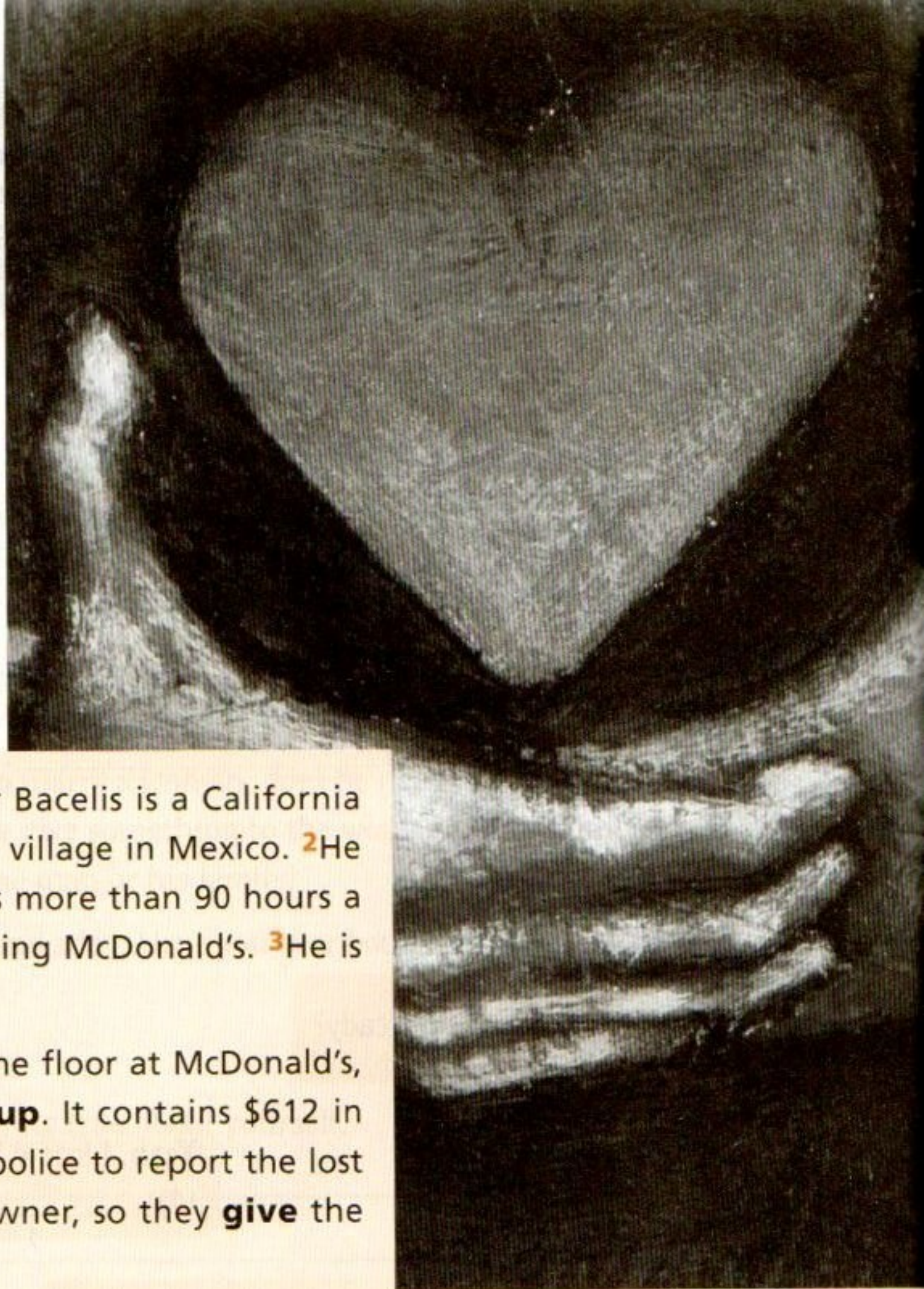


A Heart of Gold



1. Quick Reading

Look at the pictures on page 11.

What is the story about?

Now read quickly to get the main idea.

ORANGE COUNTY, CA, USA ¹Victor Bacelis is a California immigrant who **grew up** in a poor village in Mexico. ²He **is used to** working hard. He works more than 90 hours a week at three different jobs, including McDonald's. ³He is saving up to buy a house.

⁴One day, while Victor is cleaning the floor at McDonald's, he finds an envelope and **picks it up**. It contains \$612 in cash! ⁵He **gets in touch with** the police to report the lost money. The police can't find the owner, so they **give** the money **back** to Victor.

⁶Then Victor reads a story in the newspaper about Adrian Sandoval, a baby who **is** very **sick**. ⁷Victor decides to **give** the cash **away** to help pay for the baby's surgery. "Life has been nice to me," Bacelis said. "**I'm healthy**. I have enough money. Adrian is a little boy, and his condition really touched me. This is what I want to do." ⁸Victor Bacelis truly **has a heart of gold**.

New idioms and expressions

have a heart of gold	have a kind and generous character
grow up*	become an adult
be used to (doing) something	be familiar with (doing) something
pick something up*	take or lift something off the floor (or a table, etc.)
get in touch with someone	contact someone by phone, fax, e-mail, etc.
give something back*	return something (to someone)
be sick	be unwell; have bad health
give something away*	give something as a gift
be healthy	be well; have good health

recycled idiom: save up

*phrasal verb (see Lexicon and Appendix D)

 **2. Listen**

Cover the story and look only at these pictures. Listen to the story two or three times.



3. Read the Story

Now read the story carefully. Pay special attention to the idioms so that you're ready for Exercise 4.

 **4. Listen and Complete**

Close your book. Listen to the story again. When the tape or your teacher pauses, try to complete the idiom.

5. Tell the Story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Tell the story using as many idioms as you can.

- a. First, work with the whole class to retell the story.
- b. Then tell the story to a partner or small group.

6. Answer the Questions

About the story.....

- How much money does Victor pick up from the floor?
- Who does Victor get in touch with?
- What does he finally do with the cash?
- What do you know about Victor's past and present life? What kind of man is he?

About you.....

- Do you know anyone who has a heart of gold? How does this person act?
- If you found cash on the floor at work, what would you do? Would you keep the money, get in touch with the police or your boss, or give it away?
- Are you used to working hard? Tell about your weekly schedule.
- How do you usually get in touch with friends and family who live far away: by phone, by e-mail, by letter, or by fax?

7. Write About Yourself

Complete the sentences, writing something true about yourself.

- I grew up in _____.
- I often get in touch with _____.
- I'm used to _____.

8. Write a Poem

Write a poem about Victor using at least three idioms from the unit.

Example:

Victor,
You grew up so poor
And now you work so hard.
But still, you give away your money.
You have a heart of gold,
Victor.

9. Take a Dictation

10. Complete the Story

a. Read this true story and fill in the blanks with idioms from the box.

- is used to
- gave away
- was sick
- are getting in touch with
- grew up
- has a heart of gold

Woman Gives Away \$11.8 Million

Somerville, New Jersey, USA Eleanor Boyer is a 73-year-old woman who lives alone in a small house in New Jersey, where she (1) _____ . She drives an old 1968 Chevrolet.

Eleanor (2) _____ helping other people. She teaches classes at her church. When her mother (3) _____, Eleanor **took care of*** her for seven years. A neighbor says, "Eleanor is the one who shovels everyone's sidewalk when it snows. She (4) _____."

Recently, Eleanor won \$11.8 million in the New Jersey State Lottery. What do you think she did with the money? She (5) _____ the entire amount to her church and her town. Now many reporters (6) _____ Eleanor. They are surprised by her actions, but Eleanor seems bored by their questions. "God takes care of me," she declares.

*take care of someone: provide for the needs of someone

b. Read or tell the story to a partner.