**Actuele lesbrief Engels –The Black Square Thing**

**Voor de docent**

Antiracismeprotesten beheersen het nieuws. Veel acties vinden plaats op straat, maar sociale media spelen ook een belangrijke rol.

**ERK-niveau**

*Lezen B2 – Lezen om informatie op te doen: Kan artikelen en verslagen over hedendaagse problemen begrijpen, waarin de schrijvers bepaalde stellingen of standpunten innemen. (LEB2-3a*)

Leesstrategieën – *Kan gebruikmaken van uiteenlopende strategieën om tot tekstbegrip te komen, waaronder het letten op hoofdpunten. – Kan het eigen inzicht aan de hand van contextuele aanwijzingen controleren. – Kan leesverwachtingen evalueren en waar nodig eigen interpretaties herzien. – Kan van minder frequente woorden en uitdrukkingen de betekenis controleren door gebruik te maken van websites, (online) fora en eentalige woordenboeken.*

**Intro**

On 25 May, a man in Minneapolis named George Floyd died at the hands of a police office. Following his death people across the U.S. and around the world organized protests.

Assignment 1

For this assignment you may use a dictionary or English-language Internet sources to help you.

a A “hashtag” is the name of the symbol #. Hashtags are used on social media to help people find posts about the same topic. Name at least 5 other typical social media terms.

b Name three or more social media platforms. Which channels or networks do you use? And which ones are most popular in your class?

***The Black Square Thing***

Many people woke up on Tuesday 2 June 2020 to a timeline of black photos with the hashtag #BlackoutTuesday. They probably wondered what was going on.

What did it mean? Read about it [here](https://www.cbc.ca/kidsnews/post/the-controversy-behind-black-out-tuesday).

Assignment 2

For each definition, find the word or expression it describes in the text and write it down.

1. a lot of disagreement about something, usually because it is important to many people
2. useful, serious or important
3. a series of posts
4. things that have happened earlier and that that help to explain why something happens
5. thought of the idea
6. to stop for a moment to pause and think about what you are doing
7. not hiding the truth, open and direct
8. thoughtful
9. did something that they were asked to do
10. posts without any writing, marks, or pictures
11. decided to take part
12. could be heard and read everywhere on social media
13. sources of useful information or expertise
14. filling up in an untidy way
15. to take actions in order to interrupt things from going on as usual

Assignment 3

a What is #BlackOutTuesday?

1 A protest in the music industry, with musicians staying silent every Tuesday to fight racism.

2 An action on social media on 2 June 2020, to protest racism and police brutality.

3 Athletes and sports organizations wearing black suits to protest racism and police brutality.

4 Companies and organizations everywhere turning off the lights to protest racism.

b What was the controversy behind #BlackOutTuesday?

1 Actors were supporting the hashtag. Athletes were not impressed.

2 Nobody used the hashtag on Twitter. The hashtag went viral on Instagram.

3 Some people celebrated the hashtag. Others said it was getting in the way.

4 Some people posted a black square. Other people posted a blank square.

c *Lizzo posted a video on Instagram on Tuesday to spread the word to her 8.7 million followers that they shouldn’t use the #BLM hashtag on their #BlackOutTuesday posts.*

*“It is flooding the hashtag search with just black pictures instead of information,” the singer said.*

What is Lizzo saying?

1 Don’t use both the #BLM hashtag and #BlackOutTuesday. It is confusing for people, because they both mean the same.

2 Don’t use both the #BLM hashtag and #BlackOutTuesday. It makes it more difficult for people to find important information.

3 Start using the hashtag #flooding. And delete all posts with the #BLM hashtag and black square posts.

4 Stop cluttering my feed with #BlackOutTuesday and #BLM posts. I cannot find any important information any more.

**Extra Listening Assignment**

With your class, watch and discuss these videos about the protests taking place at the moment:

1 In [this video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gPyxXsr6z-I), Etienne and Kamryn speak about the racism they've faced. They also discuss how they want things to change in the future. [A2/B1]

2 And in [this video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQ32r9utU6M), four 17-year-olds talk about the protests and what to do about it. [B1/B2]