

### A. Pre-Reading Preparation

This is a human interest newspaper article about a woman who lives in Edmonton, a city in Alberta, Canada, but travels to other countries in order to help students and teachers there. Her actions are more unusual because she is an older woman. She leaves behind family, friends, possessions and comforts and is not rewarded by a large income. Despite these drawbacks, she finds her work extremely fulfilling.

1. How do you help others? What motivates you?
2. Do you think you have to go far away in order to help people? Why might you choose to go far away? Would this be difficult for you?
3. If you don't do any volunteer work, what do you think you could do in your community?

## B. Reading

Read the following text twice. If you do not understand certain words, try to deduce their meanings from the contexts in which they appear. Check the vocabulary list for quick reference, then look up the words that are new to you in a dictionary for a more comprehensive understanding.

# Mission on Knapsack

Lilly Szkorupa travels and teaches

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*Cam Tait, The Edmonton Journal*

- 1     **F**reedom is something Lilly Szkorupa **embraces** and celebrates.
- 2     At 51, most people think of freedom in terms of **retirement** -- a comfortable home to relax in, a large nest egg in the bank, and a collection of meaningful **possessions** from a rewarding career. But Szkorupa points to a knapsack **perched** on a chair next to her and says with pride: “Most of my **belongings** fit in that knapsack.” And that makes it easy for Szkorupa to travel. So when she makes her **trek** to Guyana in February, her **luggage** won't be a challenge.
- 3     She'll be in the South American country for two years as an **instructor** teaching mathematics.
- 4     This isn't the first time Szkorupa has picked up her knapsack to teach abroad. The native **Edmontonian** stepped out from behind the teacher's desk in 1978, leaving behind everything that was secure -- a regular pay cheque, a **pension**, electricity, phones, cars and television -- to become a volunteer teacher in various parts of the world, including Turkey, Asia and India.
- 5     “The only **continent** I haven't been in is South America,” she laughs. “But then there's **Antarctica**. I haven't been there either.”

(END OF SAMPLER)