Upper Beginner – Lesson 8
Fighting Crime with Books

http://123nonstop.com/pictures/Reading_Subway

I. Let's read and understand the article..

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO Like many big cities, Mexico city has a problem with crime in its subways. But it has found an unusual way to fight back – not with more police or bigger prisons but with books! The city is trying to make its underground stations big libraries. Javier Gonzales Garza, the head of the subway, says, "when people read, people change."

The city has given free books to subway riders since 2004 and wants to give away millions more in the future. The city hopes the readers return the books when they finish, but no one is checking. The books contain very short stories, so people can read them during the a quick subway ride. Passengers love the idea. "The books just fly out of our hands," says one volunteer.

The city is also putting art in some subway stations. Will books and art make the city safer and keep people out of prison? Not everyone is sure. "Maybe we'll just get more educated criminals," says one rider.

Source: Totally True Book 2 Building Vocabulary Through Reading -- Jann Huizenga

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II. Let's answer the questions...

1. Why is Mexico City giving away books in the subways?
2. What happens if readers do not return the books?
3. What do books contain?
4. Do you think the city's plan will work? Why or why not?

III. Let's learn word partnerships...

PROBLEM

have a problem + with something

Example:

Mexico City has a problem with crime.
I have a problem with my arm.
He has a problem with his car.

be a (big / serious / huge) problem

Example:

Unemployment is a *big* problem in my country.
Traffic is not a *serious* problem.
Pollution is a *huge* problem.

My own example:

1. _____ .
2. _____ .
3. _____ .
4. _____ .
5. _____ .

IV. Let's Talk...

How does your city fight crimes?

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