

## Behind the Ad

Choose an advertisement from the Classifieds section of a recent newspaper. Use the advertisement as the starting point for a short story that explores the people and situations behind the ad.



Explore the character and motives of both the buyer and the seller. Some of the questions you might answer are:

- Who wrote the ad?
- What was the writer's motivation (beyond buying or selling an item)?
- What kind of life does the writer have?
- What is the social setting behind the ad?
- What kind of family or community is involved?

Using the advertisement as your starting point, create the story behind the ad that you've chosen. Here are a couple of example ads in case you have trouble finding one on your own:

For Sale. Tropical Fish/aquarium. 120 gal. with filter, gravel, decorations. Must sell soon. One cat drowned while fishing. Best Offer. 256.3354

For Sale. 200 ft extension ladder. Best offer. Call evenings 309.9867

Wanted to buy. Used pallets. Need 100. 567.8013

For Sale :Apple iPod 15 GB model, lightly used 167 songs loaded  
The RIAA says it's worth about \$25 million. I'll let it go for \$5 million, plus shipping.