5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	AMI DAY No. 3
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## Officer Harry

Harry Smith is a police officer in the town where he grew up. His town is called Bergen. Harry always loved living in Bergen since he was a boy. He never, ever thought of leaving. When it came time for young Harry to figure out what job he wanted as a grownup, there was never a doubt in his mind. Harry knew he wanted to be a police officer. He thought it would be a good fit for him. Harry had a desire to help other folks in his community, and he felt that there was no better way to fulfill his desire than to become a police officer.

When Officer Harry is working or on-duty, he spends a lot of his day "on the beat." That means Officer Harry basically walks around a certain neighborhood. Part of his job is certainly watching out for people trying to cause trouble. However, Officer Harry also says that he thinks he has a much bigger, more important job too. "When I am out in the neighborhood, I have to get to know people," he says. "The people of Bergen should trust me, and I have to show them that they can by introducing myself, being kind and very professional." Officer Harry believes that he needs everyone's support to do his job well. He says, "We're all really working together to make sure the area is safe."

Officer Harry has to catch a bad guy every now and again, though. When he feels there is "probable cause" for him to make an arrest in a certain situation, he will take action. Probable cause means that, as a police officer, he feels there is a good reason to believe a person has committed a crime. In other words, Officer Harry cannot simply arrest anyone he wants. He will eventually have to explain to someone why he did so.

"There was one time where I happened to be walking down the street, and a man suddenly ran out of a candy store," Officer Harry remembers. "He had a bag in his hand, and the owner of the store, Ray, an old friend of mine, was yelling for help. That definitely gave me probable cause." Officer Harry was able to run the robber down and take him to jail.

There are other occasions where Officer Harry searches for someone he has been asked to arrest. "There are these documents called 'arrest warrants,' which tell police officers who we are supposed to bring to jail, where we might find them, and why they need to be arrested," he explains. When these warrants are created, someone else has already figured out that there is probable cause for someone to be arrested. "They make things easier for me," Officer Harry says, smiling. "I'd rather ask a suspect calmly to join me in my police car than have to run after him or her on the street!"

Though he definitely would prefer to never have to arrest anybody, it's part of Officer Harry's job—a job he truly loves. "I like the people of this neighborhood," he explains. "And they seem to like me too. They understand that I don't want to be mean to people. All I want to do is help keep them safe."

Write your answers for the following questions on notebook paper.

- 1. Officer Harry must have "probable cause" to arrest someone. How does the author of the passage describe probable cause?
- 2. Explain why Officer Harry thinks it is important to get to know people in the neighborhood. Use information from the passage to support your answer.
- 3. What is this passage mainly about?

## 5th Grade AMI Packet Day 3

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