The Hand that Feeds Me
Michael Z. Lewin

Pre-reading Activities

A Draw a hand on a cardboard and cut it out. Write in each finger something that you use hands for. Then display the hands on the wall.

B Discuss:

Where do homeless people sleep?
What do they eat?
What do they do all day?
What kinds of people are homeless in your town?
Do you know of any organizations that help homeless people?

C Sit on the floor or other place of the classroom. Think about or write what you can see, feel, smell, hear... Then share with the other classmates.

D Read the following quotations from the story and try to answer the questions that follow.

It’s not always smart to take meat from strange men, but this guy seemed genuine enough. I checked the meat out carefully, and then I ate it. It was good. Topped me up nicely.

Who is “I” in your opinion?

What about “this guy”?

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The blood was dry on top, but still runny under the crust. The old guy’s body was pretty warm. Whatever had happened wasn’t long over.

What do you think that might have happened?

I was extremely cautious as I drew close. I wasn’t quite sure what I would do. I only knew that I would do something.

Why, in your opinion, was the narrator careful?
Picture 5