

Name:

## Day One

# Kidnapped!

### Part 1: Silent read

➔ Can you kidnap your own children? Read silently.

Shanel and Nephra had eight children, all being raised in foster care. The couple was working hard to win back custody. They went to parenting classes and counseling. When they had visits with their children, they came on time and showered their children with love. One of the foster moms told *The New York Times* that Shanel was “a sweet person, a sweet woman.”

However, Shanel and Nephra badly wanted their family back together. One day, at a visit with their children at a foster care agency, they carried out a crazy plan. They snuck all eight children out a back door. They climbed into a large van and drove off, tires squealing. Police found the family a week later. The parents were charged with kidnapping.

Some people say that taking the children was a breach of trust. How can the state give custody back to the parents after such a reckless deed? Other people say they can understand. The foster mom quoted above said she understood Shanel’s feelings. “She just wants her kids,” she said.

Some people blamed the foster care agency. They said the agency should have had better security. But workers say this is unfair. The agency is a friendly place, with playgrounds and grass. “I guess we could put up bars and put up a moat,” the director said sarcastically to *The New York Times*. “We’re trying to heal families here.”

Source: “After abduction of 8 children, sense that mother was desperate,” *The New York Times*, September 21, 2011.



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// one minute

## Part 2: First timed read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

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## Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why were Shanel and Nephra charged with kidnapping?

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Why wasn't there better security at the agency?

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## Day One

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### Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Shanel and Nephra had eight children, / all being raised in foster care. // The couple was working hard / to win back custody. // They went to parenting classes and counseling. // When they had visits with their children, / they came on time / and showered their children with love. // One of the foster moms told *The New York Times* / that Shanel was “a sweet person, / a sweet woman.” //

However, / Shanel and Nephra / badly wanted their family back together. // One day, / at a visit with their children / at a foster care agency, / they carried out a crazy plan. // They snuck all eight children out a back door. // They climbed into a large van / and drove off, / tires squealing. // Police found the family a week later. // The parents were charged with kidnapping. //

Some people say / that taking the children was a breach of trust. // How can the state / give custody back to the parents / after such a reckless deed? // Other people say they can understand. // The foster mom quoted above / said she understood Shanel’s feelings. // “She just wants her kids,” / she said. //

Some people blamed the foster care agency. // They said the agency / should have had better security. // But workers say this is unfair. // The agency is a friendly place, / with playgrounds and grass. // “I guess we could put up bars / and put up a moat,” / the director said sarcastically / to *The New York Times*. // “We’re trying to heal families here.” //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.