

Name:

Day One

Chicago Lawn: Change Gonna Come

Part 1: Silent read

➔ The South Side of Chicago is changing. Read silently.

As a young man, Hassan Smith was in a violent gang. Now he was 60 years old. He stood in front of a crowd in Chicago Lawn. Smith said he wanted “to give back to the community I once destroyed.” The crowd had just marched down the street in an unplanned parade. They were celebrating because Smith and his wife were finally moving into their new home.

Why was the couple’s move worthy of celebration? Chicago Lawn, on the South Side of Chicago, was hurt in the mortgage crisis of 2008. People couldn’t pay their mortgages. They had to move away. By 2012, there were more than 665 abandoned homes. “It looked like a war zone,” a priest explained. Crime was widespread. Gangs terrified people in the streets.

However, some neighbors decided to join together to help their neighborhood. Smith had spent almost thirty years in prison for murder. He wanted to help, too.

The neighbors made a plan to buy abandoned houses. They organized a rally to raise money. They passed a hat around. People tossed in dollar bills. Over time, agencies and politicians offered funding. Slowly, abandoned houses were bought and fixed up.

In 2016, Smith and his wife noticed a house in bad shape. With hard work and help from neighbors, Smith rebuilt the house. A few days after the parade, Smith stood in his own backyard at sunset. He sang, “It’s been a long time coming. But I know a change gonna come.”

Source: “Inspiring Tale of a Chicago Neighborhood That Would Not Die” *U.S. News*, November 25, 2019.



Day One

// one minute

Chicago Lawn: Change Gonna Come

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

As a young man, Hassan Smith was in a violent gang. Now he was 60 years old. He stood in front of a crowd in Chicago Lawn. Smith said he wanted “to give back to the community I once destroyed.” The crowd had just marched down the street in an unplanned parade. They were celebrating because Smith and his wife were finally moving into their new home.

Why was the couple’s move worthy of celebration? Chicago Lawn, on the South Side of Chicago, was hurt in the mortgage crisis of 2008. People couldn’t pay their mortgages. They had to move away. By 2012, there were more than 665 abandoned homes. “It looked like a war zone,” a priest explained. Crime was widespread. Gangs terrified people in the streets.

However, some neighbors decided to join together to help their neighborhood. Smith had spent almost thirty years in prison for murder. He wanted to help, too.

The neighbors made a plan to buy abandoned houses. They organized a rally to raise money. They passed a hat around. People tossed in dollar bills. Over time, agencies and politicians offered funding. Slowly, abandoned houses were bought and fixed up.

In 2016, Smith and his wife noticed a house in bad shape. With hard work and help from neighbors, Smith rebuilt the house. A few days after the parade, Smith stood in his own backyard at sunset. He sang, “It’s been a long time coming. But I know a change gonna come.”

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What is the “change” Smith was singing about?

Why were there so many abandoned houses in Chicago Lawn?

Day One

Chicago Lawn: Change Gonna Come

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.

As a young man, / Hassan Smith was in a violent gang. // Now he was 60 years old. // He stood in front of a crowd / in Chicago Lawn. // Smith said he wanted to “give back / to the community I once destroyed.” // The crowd had just marched down the street / in an unplanned parade. // They were celebrating / because Smith and his wife / were finally moving into their new home. //

Why was the couple’s move worthy of celebration? // Chicago Lawn, / on the South Side of Chicago, / was hurt in the mortgage crisis of 2008. // People couldn’t pay their mortgages. // They had to move away. // By 2012, / there were more than 665 abandoned homes. // “It looked like a war zone,” / a priest explained. // Crime was widespread. // Gangs terrified people in the streets. //

However, / some neighbors decided to join together / to help their neighborhood. // Smith had spent almost thirty years / in prison for murder. // He wanted to help, / too. //

The neighbors made a plan / to buy abandoned houses. // They organized a rally / to raise money. // They passed a hat around. // People tossed in dollar bills. // Over time, / agencies and politicians offered funding. // Slowly, / abandoned houses were bought / and fixed up. //

Smith and his wife noticed a house / in bad shape. // With hard work and help from neighbors, / Smith rebuilt the house. // A few days after the parade, / Smith stood in his own backyard / at sunset. // He sang, / “It’s been a long time coming. // But I know a change gonna come.” //

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