

Name:

Day One

Silent Victims

Part 1: Silent read

➔ What was it like to be an Iraqi child during the war? Read silently.

Marwa, a young Iraqi woman, was 12 when the bombs fell. The year was 2003. The Iraq War had begun. Ten years later, Marwa told her story to *BBC News*. She told how scared she was as her family hid inside their house with bombs exploding around them. She told how, finally, she could no longer take the noise and the fear and began to run. Then, everything went black. When Marwa awoke, she discovered that her leg had been blown off. She would never run again.

Marwa is just one of many Iraqi children who were caught up in the Iraq War. Life changes a great deal in wartime. Suddenly, no one knows what to expect. Adults are worried and confused. Good food and clean water are hard to find. In Iraq, children saw people hurt and killed. They heard about kidnappings. They saw buildings blown to bits.

War also disrupts health care. In Iraq, hospitals closed, and doctors left the country. Many infants and children became sick.

Things were so bad in Iraq that many families fled. About four million Iraqis left their homes. People were torn from their everyday lives. Children could not attend school or see their friends.

The war affected children's minds and spirits, too. Many became fearful all the time. Some lashed out, hitting and kicking parents and friends.

Dr. Saied al Hashimi, a Baghdad doctor, treated some of these children. "I call them the silent victims."

Source: "Marwa's story: 10 years since the bomb fell," *BBC News*, March 13, 2013.



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// one minute

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

How did life change for children in wartime?

How many Iraqis left their homes during the war?

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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.

Marwa, / a young Iraqi woman, / was 12 when the bombs fell. // The year was 2003. // The Iraq War had begun. // Ten years later, / Marwa told her story to *BBC News*. // She told how scared she was / as her family hid inside their house / with bombs exploding around them. // She told how, / finally, / she could no longer take the noise and the fear / and began to run. // Then, / everything went black. // When Marwa awoke, / she discovered that her leg had been blown off. // She would never run again. //

Marwa is just one of many Iraqi children / who were caught up in the Iraq War. // Life changes a great deal in wartime. // Suddenly, / no one knows what to expect. // Adults are worried and confused. // Good food and clean water are hard to find. In Iraq, / children saw people hurt and killed. // They heard about kidnappings. // They saw buildings blown to bits. //

War also disrupts health care. // In Iraq, / hospitals closed, / and doctors left the country. // Many infants and children became sick. //

Things were so bad in Iraq / that many families fled. // About four million Iraqis left their homes. // People were torn from their everyday lives. // Children could not attend school / or see their friends. //

The war affected children's minds and spirits, / too. // Many became fearful all the time. // Some lashed out, / hitting / and kicking parents and friends. //

Dr. Saied al Hashimi, / a Baghdad doctor, / treated some of these children. // "I call them the silent victims." //

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