

Name:

Day One

Tamir Rice: Killed at 12

Part 1: Silent read

➔ Learn about the tragic murder of a 12-year-old boy. Read silently.

“Shots fired, male down,” a police officer broadcast into his radio. It was November, 2014 in a park in Cleveland, Ohio. “Black male, maybe 20... black handgun...”

However, the officer was wrong. It wasn’t a Black man who the White officer had just gunned down. It was a twelve-year-old boy, Tamir Rice, who lived nearby. And it wasn’t a handgun he had; it was a toy gun.

This tragic story began with a trade. Earlier in the day, Tamir had rifled through his mother’s drawer, searching for a plaything. He’d found a cellphone and brought it with him to the park. An older friend offered to take the phone to a store to have the service unlocked. Tamir was eager to borrow his friend’s lifelike toy gun until he returned. Tamir seemed thrilled by the imitation weapon. He horsed around with it, striking poses.

What happened next? A cascade of disturbing events led to the moment when Tamir took his final breath. The 911 caller relayed that the gun was “probably fake” and the person who held it was “probably a juvenile.” This crucial information, however, wasn’t communicated to the officers. One of the officers, Timothy Loehmann, had a history of emotional instability. The officers didn’t heed the policy regarding use-of-force. Instead, Loehmann shot Tamir in the abdomen from close range. Neither officer performed first aid or took the dying boy’s vital signs.

Tamir was considered a friendly, mischievous child who loved pranks. His anguished mother said, “Somebody has to be held accountable.”

Source: “In Tamir Rice Case, Many Errors by Cleveland Police, Then a Fatal One,” *The New York Times*, January 22, 2015.



Day One

// one minute

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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

“Shots fired, male down,” a police officer broadcast into his radio. It was November, 2014 in a park in Cleveland, Ohio. “Black male, maybe 20... black handgun...”

However, the officer was wrong. It wasn't a Black man who the White officer had just gunned down. It was a twelve-year-old boy, Tamir Rice, who lived nearby. And it wasn't a handgun he had; it was a toy gun. 44
61
67

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101
119
135
144

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177
190
204
217
232
233

Tamir was considered a friendly, mischievous child who loved pranks. His anguished mother said, “Somebody has to be held accountable.” 246
253

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What happened that led up to Tamir being shot and killed?

What did the 911 caller say?

Day One

Tamir Rice: Killed at 12

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.

“Shots fired, / male down,” / a police officer broadcast into his radio. // It was November, / 2014 / in a park in Cleveland, / Ohio. // “Black male, / maybe 20... / black handgun...”//

However, / the officer was wrong. // It wasn’t a Black man / who the White officer had just gunned down. // It was a twelve-year-old boy, / Tamir Rice, / who lived nearby. // And it wasn’t a handgun he had; / it was a toy gun. //

This tragic story began with a trade. // Earlier in the day, / Tamir had rifled through his mother’s drawer, / searching for a plaything. // He found a cellphone / and brought it with him to the park. // An older friend / offered to take the phone to a store / to have the service unlocked. // Tamir was eager to borrow / his friend’s lifelike toy gun / until he returned. // Tamir seemed thrilled by the imitation weapon. // He horsed around with it, / striking poses. //

What happened next? // A cascade of disturbing events / led to the moment when Tamir took his final breath. // The 911 caller relayed that the gun was “probably fake” / and the person who held it / was “probably a juvenile.” // This crucial information, / however, / wasn’t communicated to the officers. // One of the officers, / Timothy Loehmann, / had a history of emotional instability. // The officers didn’t heed the policy regarding use-of-force. // Instead, / Loehmann shot Tamir in the abdomen / from close range. // Neither officer performed first aid / or took the dying boy’s vital signs. //

Tamir was considered a friendly, / mischievous child / who loved pranks. // His anguished mother said, / “Somebody has to be held accountable.”//

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