

Name:

## Day One

# Trayvon Martin: A Life Stolen

### Part 1: Silent read

➔ An innocent teenager was killed in Florida. Read silently.

“If I had a son, he would look like Trayvon,” declared President Obama. Trayvon Martin, a Black unarmed teen, was shot in 2012. His death sparked a nationwide outcry regarding racial profiling. Millions of people protested, demanding justice for the slain teenager.

What were the circumstances of this tragedy? One rainy evening, Trayvon was heading home from a convenience store. Though he resided in Miami, Trayvon and his father were visiting his father’s fiancée in Sanford, Florida. Trayvon was wearing his hoodie. He was carrying an iced tea and Skittles. He was listening to music and talking with his girlfriend on his phone. George Zimmerman, a neighborhood-watch volunteer, spotted Trayvon. There had been a rash of burglaries in the vicinity. Upon seeing Trayvon, Zimmerman alerted the Sanford police, who advised him not to pursue the boy. Zimmerman ignored the dispatcher’s counsel and trailed Trayvon. Shortly thereafter, the sound of gunfire reverberated throughout the area.

When officers arrived at the scene, Trayvon was dead. Zimmerman, claiming he’d acted in self-defense, wasn’t arrested. Trayvon’s parents advocated for their deceased son, voicing profound concerns regarding the police investigation. The case gained national attention and, following weeks of protests, Zimmerman was charged with murder. A jury found Zimmerman not guilty.

“He was a very fun-loving, understanding young man with a beautiful smile,” Trayvon’s father said about his son. “He obeyed the laws of the land. He was our child and we’ll never be able to touch him again. That’s who Trayvon Martin was.”

Sources: “Trayvon Martin’s Parents, Five Years On: “‘Racism is Alive and Well in America,’” *The Guardian*, February 13, 2017.

“Florida Teen Trayvon Martin is Shot and Killed,” History.com, November 12, 2013.



## Day One

// one minute

# Trayvon Martin: A Life Stolen

### Part 2: First timed read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

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### Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What happened to Trayvon Martin?

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What happened to George Zimmerman?

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## Day One

# Trayvon Martin: A Life Stolen

### 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.

“If I had a son, / he would look like Trayvon,” / declared President Obama. // Trayvon Martin, / a Black unarmed teen, / was shot in 2012. // His death sparked a nationwide outcry / regarding racial profiling. // Millions of people protested, / demanding justice for the slain teenager. //

What were the circumstances of this tragedy? // One rainy evening, / Trayvon was heading home / from a convenience store. // Though he resided in Miami, / Trayvon and his father / were visiting his father’s fiancée / in Sanford, / Florida. // Trayvon was wearing his hoodie. // He was carrying an iced tea and Skittles. // He was listening to music / and talking with his girlfriend on his phone. // George Zimmerman, / a neighborhood-watch volunteer, / spotted Trayvon. // There had been a rash of burglaries / in the vicinity. // Upon seeing Trayvon, / Zimmerman alerted the Sanford police, / who advised him not to pursue the boy. // Zimmerman ignored the dispatcher’s counsel / and trailed Trayvon. // Shortly thereafter, / the sound of gunfire / reverberated throughout the area. //

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“He was a very fun-loving, / understanding young man / with a beautiful smile,” / Trayvon’s father said about his son. // “He obeyed the laws of the land. // He was our child / and we’ll never be able to touch him again. // That’s who Trayvon Martin was.” //

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