

Name:

Day One

Foster Care: Staying Strong

Part 1: Silent read

→ What happens when parents can't take care of their children? Read silently.

Kelly remembers her mother singing her to sleep. Their favorite song was “Beautiful” by Christina Aguilera. The last time she saw her mother, Kelly was just five years old. Since then, she has lived in 12 different homes. Kelly is a foster child.

Foster care is a state-run system of care for children. Some children in foster care have parents who are sick or have died. Others have parents who cannot cope with raising a child. Kelly’s mom loved her. She wanted her daughter to have a better life. Hoping for the best, she let Kelly go into foster care.

Sometimes children like Kelly live in group homes. In group homes, foster children are cared for by child care workers. However, the state prefers to place children with families. A foster family is a substitute family. Foster parents make sure children have enough food, clean clothes, and medical care. They make sure children go to school. Most foster children return to their birth families within two years. When they cannot return, the state tries to find a family to adopt them. The goal is to keep children safe.

For many children, foster care is tough. They miss their birth families. They may blame themselves for what happened. They may not really trust the foster family. In spite of these challenges, Kelly has stayed strong. “Growing up in foster care, I learned to take care of myself,” she says. “No matter what happened, I knew I was beautiful inside.”

Source: “Foster care stories: Profile of a foster child,” *NPR*, November 23, 2006.



Day One

// one minute

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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What does a foster family do to care for children?

What can be hard about foster care?

Day One

Foster Care: Staying Strong

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.

Kelly remembers her mother / singing her to sleep. // Their favorite song was “Beautiful” / by Christina Aguilera. // The last time she saw her mother, / Kelly was just five years old. // Since then, / she has lived in 12 different homes. // Kelly is a foster child. //

Foster care is a state-run system of care for children. // Some children in foster care have parents who are sick / or have died. // Others have parents who cannot cope with raising a child. // Kelly’s mom loved her. // She wanted her daughter to have a better life. // Hoping for the best, / she let Kelly go into foster care. //

Sometimes children like Kelly live in group homes. // In group homes, / foster children are cared for by child care workers. // However, / the state prefers to place children with families. // A foster family is a substitute family. // Foster parents make sure children have enough food, / clean clothes, / and medical care. // They make sure children go to school. // Most foster children return to their birth families / within two years. // When they cannot return, / the state tries to find a family to adopt them. // The goal is to keep children safe. //

For many children, / foster care is tough. // They miss their birth families. // They may blame themselves / for what happened. // They may not really trust the foster family. // In spite of these challenges, / Kelly has stayed strong. // “Growing up in foster care, / I learned to take care of myself,” / she says. // “No matter what happened, / I knew I was beautiful inside.” //

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