

Name:

Day One

The Death of Tamir Rice

Part 1: Silent read

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

“Shots fired, male down,” a police officer said 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 shot. 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 searched through his mother's drawer, looking 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 excited to borrow his friend's lifelike toy gun. He played around with it in the park.

What happened next? A series of upsetting events led to the moment when Tamir was killed. The 911 caller said that the gun was “probably fake.” He said the person holding it was “probably a juvenile.” This important information, however, wasn't communicated to the officers. One of the officers, Timothy Loehmann, had a history of emotional instability. The officers didn't pay attention to the police department's policy regarding use-of-force. Instead, Loehmann shot Tamir in the stomach from a few feet away. Neither officer performed first aid. Nobody took the dying boy's vital signs.

Tamir was considered a friendly child who loved pranks. His upset 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

The Death of Tamir Rice

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

How did Tamir Rice die?

What did the 911 caller tell the person who answered the phone?

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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.

“Shots fired, / male down,” / a police officer said 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 shot. // 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 searched through his mother’s drawer, / looking 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 excited to borrow his friend’s lifelike toy gun. // He played around with it in the park. //

What happened next? // A series of upsetting events / led to the moment when Tamir was killed. // The 911 caller said / that the gun was “probably fake.” // He said the person holding it / was “probably a juvenile.” // This important information, / however, / wasn’t communicated to the officers. // One of the officers, / Timothy Loehmann, / had a history of emotional instability. // The officers didn’t pay attention / to the police department’s policy regarding use-of-force. // Instead, / Loehmann shot Tamir in the stomach from a few feet away. // Neither officer performed first aid. // Nobody took the dying boy’s vital signs. //

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

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