

Name:

## Day One

# Trayvon Martin: A Tragic End

### Part 1: Silent read

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

“If I had a son, he would look like Trayvon,” said 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. They demanded 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 lived 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 dead son. They shared profound concerns regarding the police investigation. The case gained national attention. Following weeks of protests, Zimmerman was finally 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 Tragic End

### Part 2: First timed read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

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### Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What happened to Trayvon Martin?

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Why wasn’t George Zimmerman charged with a crime?

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## Day One

# Trayvon Martin: A Tragic End

### 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,” / said 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. / They demanded justice for the slain teenager. //

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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.