

Name:

Day One

The Killing 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 these words into his radio. It was November, 2014 in a park in Cleveland, Ohio. “Black male, maybe 20... black handgun...”

But the police 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. Tamir lived nearby. He wasn't holding a handgun. He was holding a toy gun.

This sad story began with a trade. Earlier in the day, Tamir searched through his mother's drawer. He found a cellphone. He brought the cellphone with him to the park. A teenage friend offered to take the phone to a store to have it fixed. Tamir was excited to borrow his friend's lifelike toy gun. Tamir played with it in the park.

What happened next? A series of mistakes led to Tamir's death. A man saw Tamir playing with the toy gun. The man called 911. He said the gun was “probably fake.” He said the person holding it was probably a child. Somehow this information wasn't given to the officers. Also, the officers didn't pay attention to an important rule. The rule says police should always use less force, if possible. Instead, the officer shot Tamir in the stomach. The officer was only a few feet away from Tamir. Nobody gave Tamir first aid. Neither officer took Tamir's vital signs.

People said Tamir was 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 Killing of Tamir Rice

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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

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 It was a twelve-year-old boy, Tamir Rice. Tamir lived nearby. He wasn’t holding a handgun. 62
 He was holding a toy gun. 68

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 drawer. He found a cellphone. He brought the cellphone with him to the park. A teenage 100
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 a few feet away from Tamir. Nobody gave Tamir first aid. Neither officer took Tamir’s vital 228
 signs. 229

People said Tamir was a friendly child who loved pranks. His upset mother said, “Somebody 244
 has to be held accountable.” 249

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

How was Tamir Rice killed?

Name one mistake that led to Tamir’s death.

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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 these words / into his radio. // It was November, / 2014 / in a park/ in Cleveland, / Ohio. // “Black male, / maybe 20... / black handgun...” //

But the police 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. // Tamir lived nearby. // He wasn’t holding a handgun. // He was holding a toy gun. //

This sad story began with a trade. // Earlier in the day, / Tamir searched through his mother’s drawer. // He found a cellphone. // He brought the cellphone with him / to the park. // A teenage friend / offered to take the phone to a store / to have it fixed. // Tamir was excited / to borrow his friend’s lifelike toy gun. // Tamir played with it in the park. //

What happened next? // A series of mistakes led to Tamir’s death. // A man saw Tamir playing with the toy gun. // The man called 911. // He said the gun was “probably fake.” // He said the person holding it / was probably a child. // Somehow this information wasn’t given to the officers. // Also, / the officers didn’t pay attention / to an important rule. // The rule says police should always use less force, / if possible. // Instead, / the officer shot Tamir in the stomach. // The officer was only a few feet away / from Tamir. // Nobody gave Tamir first aid. // Neither officer took Tamir’s vital signs. //

People said Tamir was 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.