

Name:

Day One

The Tragic Death of Trayvon Martin

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 an outcry throughout the nation about racial inequality. Millions of people protested. They demanded justice for the murdered 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 series of burglaries in the area. Upon seeing Trayvon, Zimmerman called the police. The police told Zimmerman not to follow the boy. Zimmerman ignored the police’s advice. After a short period of time, there was the sound of gunfire.

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 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.



The Tragic Death of Trayvon Martin

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

“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 an outcry throughout the nation about racial inequality. Millions of people protested. They demanded justice for the murdered teenager. 45

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75
90
107
120
134
148
157

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184
195
208
210

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245
254

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What happened to Trayvon Martin?

What did George Zimmerman claim about what happened?

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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.

“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 an outcry / throughout the nation / about racial inequality. // Millions of people protested. / They demanded justice / for the murdered 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 series of burglaries / in the area. // Upon seeing Trayvon, / Zimmerman called the police. // The police told Zimmerman not to follow the boy. // Zimmerman ignored the police’s advice. // After a short period of time, / there was the sound of gunfire. //

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