

Name:

Day One

Teens in Foster Care

Part 1: Silent read

→ Why is foster care especially tough for teens? Read silently.

When Juan was 7, his mother was sick with cancer. Juan was placed in foster care. Years passed, and Juan moved from family to family. He spent time in a group home. Then, he ran away and began staying with friends. Finally, at age 17, something unexpected happened. Through a foster care worker, Juan made contact with Henry Greene, age 71. Mr. Greene decided to adopt Juan. “I never thought I’d find a family,” Juan told *The New York Times*.

Juan’s story is unusual. When it comes to finding a family, a foster child’s age is an important factor. Some foster parents contend that taking a teenager into the family is too risky and too hard. One foster mom is candid about not wanting teens. “I would take someone up to 11 or 12,” she told *The New York Times*. Some teens have spent years in the system and find it difficult to trust new families and adapt to new homes. As a result, as many as one in three foster children are teens.

Foster care workers are trying hard to combat this problem. In some states, investigators track down relatives of foster children to try to find possible adoptive families. They hope to find good matches between foster teens and caring adults, like Juan and Mr. Greene. “He cares about me and talks to me like a father,” said Juan. “I feel like I finally got this.”

Source: “As teenagers leave group homes, a challenge facing those who remain,” *The New York Times*, June 8, 2008.



Day One

// one minute

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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why is it hard for teens to be adopted?

Why does Juan feel he has finally found a home with Mr. Greene?

Day One

Teens in Foster Care

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.

When Juan was 7, / his mother was sick with cancer. // Juan was placed in foster care. // Years passed, / and Juan moved from family to family. // He spent time in a group home. // Then, / he ran away / and began staying with friends. // Finally, / at age 17, / something unexpected happened. // Through a foster care worker, / Juan made contact with Henry Greene, / age 71. // Mr. Greene decided to adopt Juan. // “I never thought I’d find a family,” / Juan told *The New York Times*. //

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