

Name

Day One

# The Killing 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 teen, was shot in 2012. He wasn’t carrying a weapon. His death sparked an outcry throughout the nation about racial inequality. Millions of people protested. They demanded justice for the Miami teenager.

How did this tragedy happen? Trayvon and his father were visiting his father’s fiancée in another town. One rainy evening, Trayvon was heading home from a convenience store. He 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, saw Trayvon. There had been recent burglaries in the area. Upon seeing Trayvon, Zimmerman called the police. They 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 claimed he’d acted in self-defense. He wasn’t arrested. Trayvon’s parents wanted justice for their son. They shared concerns with the public about 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.” These are the words of Trayvon’s father. “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

## The Killing of Trayvon Martin

### Part 2: First timed read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

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78  
95  
108  
122  
135  
151

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179  
192  
205  
208

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242  
253

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### Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

How did Trayvon die?

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What did George Zimmerman say about why he shot Trayvon?

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## Day One

# The Killing of Trayvon Martin

### 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 teen, / was shot in 2012. // He wasn’t carrying a weapon. // His death sparked an outcry / throughout the nation / about racial inequality. // Millions of people protested. // They demanded justice / for the Miami teenager. //

How did this tragedy happen? // Trayvon and his father/ were visiting his father’s fiancée / in another town. // One rainy evening, / Trayvon was heading home / from a convenience store. // He 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, / saw Trayvon. // There had been recent burglaries / in the area. // Upon seeing Trayvon, / Zimmerman called the police. // They 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 claimed / he’d acted in self-defense. // He wasn’t arrested. // Trayvon’s parents wanted justice for their son. // They shared concerns with the public / about 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.” // These are the words of Trayvon’s father. // “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.