

Name:

Day One

The Cheerleader Mom

Part 1: Silent read

→ Find out about a loving parent's terrible crime. Read silently.

Parents want the best for their children. They want good friendships. They want high grades. And many parents want their children to star in sports. Some parents become obsessed with sports. They forget that sports should be something kids do for fun. These parents scream at coaches and referees. They start fights with other parents. And sometimes, they do things that are even worse.

Wanda Holloway was a parent who became obsessed with cheerleading. Her daughter, Shanna, was 13 years old. Wanda wanted Shanna to make the school cheerleading squad. Another girl, Amber, was also trying out. Wanda was scared that Amber would make the squad instead of Shanna. So Wanda did something shocking.

Wanda spoke to a man named John Harper. She told him she wanted both Amber and Amber's mother, Verna, killed.

But John Harper called the police, and the police set a trap. Harper met with Wanda wearing a hidden microphone. Police heard Wanda agree to give Harper \$2,500 to commit murder.

Wanda Holloway was arrested, tried, and found guilty. She was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Amber's mother, Verna, was stunned. "I just want to ask her why, why would you do this," she said. "To leave my kids without a mother? Why would a cheerleading spot be so important?"



Day One

// one minute

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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

Parents want the best for their children. They want good friendships. They want high grades. And many parents want their children to star in sports. Some parents become obsessed with sports. They forget that sports should be something kids do for fun. These parents scream at coaches and referees. They start fights with other parents. And sometimes, they do things that are even worse.

43
56
64

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76
90
105
114

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130
134

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150
165
166

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181
197
213
216

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What was Wanda Holloway’s crime?

Who called the police?

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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.

Parents want the best for their children. // They want good friendships. // They want high grades. // And many parents want their children to star in sports. //

Some parents become obsessed with sports. // They forget that sports should be something / kids do for fun. // These parents scream at coaches / and referees. // They start fights with other parents. // And sometimes, / they do things that are even worse. //

Wanda Holloway was a parent / who became obsessed with cheerleading. // Her daughter, / Shanna, / was 13 years old. // Wanda wanted Shanna to make the school cheerleading squad. // Another girl, / Amber, / was also trying out. // Wanda was scared that Amber would make the squad instead of Shanna. // So Wanda did something shocking. //

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Wanda Holloway was arrested, / tried, / and found guilty. // She was sentenced to 10 years in prison. // Amber’s mother, / Verna, / was stunned. // “I just want to ask her why, / why would you do this,” / she said. // “To leave my kids without a mother?// Why would a cheerleading spot / be so important?” //

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