

Name:

Day One

Hidden Causes of Crime

Part 1: Silent read

➔ What makes some teens commit crimes? Read silently.

Eddy vandalized his school library two years ago. He threw rocks through one of the large windows and then scrambled into the building. Once inside, he smashed and overturned banks of computers and ripped pages out of library books. In all, he cost his school about \$200,000.

Usually, teens who are caught vandalizing are fined and sentenced to probation. In more serious cases, they may be sent to a youth lock-up. Instead, the court ordered a mental health evaluation for Eddy. The evaluation included the questions, “Do you often feel left out?” and “Do you ever feel like hurting yourself or people close to you?” Psychiatrists concluded that Eddy was depressed. He felt like his parents didn’t care about him. Eddy and his family began therapy to work out their problems. Two years later, Eddy is not completely happy, but he has more understanding of his behavior. He said, “I hurt a lot of people who did nothing wrong by ruining all that stuff. That was the wrong way to handle my unhappiness.”

Many young people who commit crimes are actually suffering from mental illness. Acting out behavior often stems from depression or anxiety. Locking up teens may keep them out of trouble for a while. But jail may not address the roots of youth crime. Untreated mental problems may spawn more criminal behavior. Similar to Eddy’s experience, some youth courts now require mental health screening for teens accused of crimes.



Day One

// one minute

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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What’s at the root of many youth crimes?

What does Eddy think now about vandalizing his school library?

Day One

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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.

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