

Name:

## Day One

# Aging Out

### Part 1: Silent read

➔ What happens when foster children become adults? Read silently.

For many people, turning 18 is a time to celebrate. Nicole was a foster child. For her, turning 18 meant something different. “I turned 18 a month before I graduated from high school,” she told Fosterclub.com. “The day after graduation, I was kicked out of my foster home, where I had been living for two years.” At 18, Nicole was homeless.

In foster care, the hope is that children will return to their parents before age 18. If this fails, the state looks for another permanent family. But some children remain in foster care until they turn 18 or, in some states, 21. Once they reach this age, foster children are compelled to find their own place to live. They can no longer expect support from the state. Many lose contact with their foster families. This is called “aging out.”

Foster children who age out face many risks. Only half will graduate from high school. Only 3 percent will graduate from college. One in five will become homeless. One in four will go to prison.

Even foster children who beat the odds struggle with aging out. When Sharde aged out of foster care, she was on her way to college. Her future was bright. Still, she felt alone. No parent or sibling came to visit her in college. No one told her good-bye. “When I first stepped onto campus, I wanted someone to congratulate me,” she wrote on Fosterclub.com. “I wanted someone to say that they would miss me!” Even young adults need families!

Sources: “Aging out,” *FosterClub.com*. 2012.

“Aging out without a family,” *FosterClub.com*. October 5, 2008.



# Day One Aging Out

// one minute

## Part 2: First timed read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

For many people, turning 18 is a time to celebrate. Nicole was a foster child. For her, turning 18 meant something different. “I turned 18 a month before I graduated from high school,” she told Fosterclub.com. “The day after graduation, I was kicked out of my foster home, where I had been living for two years.” At 18, Nicole was homeless. 61

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93  
111  
127  
140

Foster children who age out face many risks. Only half will graduate from high school. Only 3 percent will graduate from college. One in five will become homeless. One in four will go to prison. 155  
170  
175

Even foster children who beat the odds struggle with aging out. When Sharde aged out of foster care, she was on her way to college. Her future was bright. Still, she felt alone. No parent or sibling came to visit her in college. No one told her good-bye. “When I first stepped onto campus, I wanted someone to congratulate me,” she wrote on Fosterclub.com. “I wanted someone to say that they would miss me!” Even young adults need families! 191  
209  
227  
239  
253  
255

## Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What is aging out?

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What are some of the risks foster children face when they age out?

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## Day One

# Aging Out

### 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.

For many people, / turning 18 is a time to celebrate. // Nicole was a foster child. // For her, / turning 18 meant something different. // “I turned 18 / a month before I graduated from high school,” / she told Fosterclub.com. // “The day after graduation, / I was kicked out of my foster home, / where I had been living for two years.” // At 18, / Nicole was homeless. //

In foster care, / the hope is that children will return to their parents / before age 18. // If this fails, / the state looks for another permanent family. // But some children remain in foster care / until they turn 18 or, / in some states, / 21. // Once they reach this age, / foster children are compelled to find their own place to live. // They can no longer expect support from the state. // Many lose contact with their foster families. // This is called “aging out.” //

Foster children who age out / face many risks. // Only half will graduate from high school. // Only 3 percent will graduate from college. // One in five will become homeless. // One in four will go to prison. //

Even foster children who beat the odds / struggle with aging out. // When Sharde aged out of foster care, / she was on her way to college. // Her future was bright. // Still, / she felt alone. // No parent or sibling / came to visit her in college. // No one told her good-bye. // “When I first stepped onto campus, / I wanted someone to congratulate me,” / she wrote on Fosterclub.com. // “I wanted someone to say that they would miss me!” // Even young adults need families! //

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