

long-term

LOCKED UP

tile restriction

CLASSROOM MATERIALS

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Chapter One

Directions: Read the excerpt from Chapter One and answer the question(s) that follow. Use complete sentences.

The end of chapter reads as follows:

Blinking against the pain of the lingering spray, Brian pulled on the socks, underwear, t-shirt, and jumpsuit. The jumpsuit was baggy and ill-fitting. He looked down at himself and shook his head. Brian looked like a clown. The officer nodded approvingly.

"Looks good," he said. Brian stared at the man, jaws clenched. He didn't say anything, but the expression on his face was clear.

"Like everybody else here," the officer continued.

"I look stupid."

The officer nodded again. "Like I said. Just like everybody else in here. Just remember. How long you stay in that jumpsuit is up to you. You act like your friend back there and you'll get more than just OC spray in the face. You'll stay here for a long time. And with lots of people just like him. Think about it."

Brian didn't say a word. He was already thinking about it. He was already thinking about what he had to do to be free again.

1. Losing one's freedom is a jarring experience. On the inside of a maximum-security juvenile correctional facility, everyone wears the same clothes and eats the same food. You have to ask permission to use the restroom. You are told when to go to bed at night and when to get up in the morning. You are given a number. You are that number. How well do you think you would deal with being locked up? Explain your answer. Use complete sentences.

Chapter Two

Directions: Read the excerpt from Chapter Two and answer the question(s) that follow. Use complete sentences.

The end of chapter reads as follows:

"When was the last time you spoke to your mother?" Marie asked.

Brian looked down, not speaking. It wasn't that he didn't know the answer to her question. Brian knew it. He remembered the day well - too well. He just didn't want his voice to crack when he spoke. After a while, he looked at Marie and said.

"The last time I spoke to my mom was when they took me away from her. Said she was an unfit parent. I haven't seen her since."

1. Do your circumstances define you, or do you define your circumstances? Explain your answer. Use complete sentences.

2. Who is ultimately responsible for your actions? Is having a bad childhood an excuse for bad behavior? Explain your answer. Use complete sentences.

Chapter Three

Directions: Read the excerpt from Chapter Three and answer the question(s) that follow. Use complete sentences.

The beginning of the chapter reads as follows:

"You look scared."

Brian ignored the comment directed at him. He had no desire to engage anyone in a conversation about being scared. In fact, he was a little scared, but if he said he wasn't scared then Brian figured no one would believe him. If he said he was scared, then he was setting himself up to be a target.

"Better to keep my mouth shut," he thought to himself. "And don't be stupid. I'm not like the rest of these guys. I'm not stupid. I want out of this place. Fighting is only going to keep me here longer."

"I said," the other boy repeated emphatically. "You look scared. Are you scared?"

It was a test and Brian knew it. He also knew that he'd better pass this test. Calmly, he looked up at the other boy, locked eyes with him for a moment, then moved his gaze to survey the rest of the unit.

"You're not talking?" the other taunted. "That's good. You keep your mouth shut. And when we go to Dining Hall you don't talk... or eat. Anything on your tray is mine. You understand?"

Stupid people. Just like the officer had warned. For no reason this young man had targeted Brian and was now trying to intimidate him.

1. There is evil in this world. Evil people who do evil things. How can we best defend ourselves against these people? Explain your answer. Use complete sentences.

Chapter Four

Directions: Read the excerpt from Chapter Four and answer the question(s) that follow. Use complete sentences.

An excerpt from the chapter reads as follows:

"You're not supposed to eat. That's my food."

Jones spoke slowly and quietly, then paused to survey the adults. Their officer was scanning the rest of the Dining Hall. Jones looked back at Brian and continued, "You pass me your cookies. Now."

"Why is this happening to me?" Brian thought. "There are other people on the unit. Why doesn't he mess with someone else?"

Brian's pulse began to race, and suddenly he wasn't hungry. The other people at the long table continued to eat, but everyone else within earshot was paying close attention. They still ate, but their sporks were moving more carefully between trays and mouths. They were waiting, watching, and listening.

Brian didn't want to be the focus of attention. All he wanted was to be left alone. He didn't want to be sprayed in the face with O.C. spray. He didn't want to be locked down in his room all afternoon with nothing to do but try to sleep on a thin uncomfortable mattress. He didn't want to be threatened by someone he didn't even know. He just wanted to left alone to eat his lunch.

It looked like that wasn't going to happen.

1. Why is "wait, watch, and listen" a good plan of action? Explain your answer. Use complete sentences. When would it not be a good plan of action?

Chapter Five

Directions: Read the excerpt from Chapter Five and answer the question(s) that follow. Use complete sentences.

An excerpt from the chapter reads as follows:

"But why should I leave," he said. "I've got friends in here. I get my own room. I can read books all day long. What's not to like?"

1. Many juvenile offenders became institutionalized...easily. It was easier to live on the inside than it was on the outside world. Their basic necessities were met. However, they were not free. Consider political systems such as communism and socialism. Basic needs might indeed be met under these systems, but at what cost? When you choose the safety of "the state" what do you give up in return? Explain your answer. Use complete sentences.

Chapter Six

Directions: Read the excerpt from Chapter Six and answer the question(s) that follow. Use complete sentences.

An excerpt from the chapter reads as follows:

One of the commonly used terms was “lifer”. It referred to an offender who played too much, and wasn’t interested in doing his program. Such a person was going to be in prison for life.

“Retton is straight up a lifer,” Brian thought as he rounded the corner by the guard shack and headed down another long sidewalk toward his new unit. “Not me though. I thought I was going to go crazy sitting alone in that cell with nothing to do but think. I can’t even imagine what it would be like if I got locked up in seg for more than a week.”

1. Imagine being locked up in a cell for twenty-three hours per day...for months at a time. That's what life is like on a segregation unit. How do you think someone ends up on a segregation unit? Why are some people lifers? What can we do with these sorts of people? Explain your answers. Use complete sentences.

Chapter Seven

Directions: Read the excerpt from Chapter Seven and answer the question(s) that follow. Use complete sentences.

An excerpt from the chapter reads as follows:

"Tile restriction?"

"You gotta stand on one of the floor tiles all night long," Retton explained. "If you move off the tile, then you get beat down. They take turns standing watch...to make sure you stand on your tile."

"I guess he didn't make it because Walk Patrol came and got him in the middle of the night. They took him to Medical."

"What happened to his roommates?" Brian asked. "I didn't see anyone come over to seg."

"Nothing."

Brian cocked an eyebrow. "Nothing?" he repeated.

"Not a damn thing," Retton explained. "He said that he fell out of his bunk in the middle of the night. Remember, 'Snitches get stitches...'"

1. Should you always tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God? What is the difference between "lying" and "bearing false witness"? Explain your answers. Use complete sentences.

Chapter Eight

Directions: Read the excerpt from Chapter Eight and answer the question(s) that follow. Use complete sentences.

An excerpt from the chapter reads as follows:

Brian squinted at the scene before him. Why would that stupid idiot threaten an officer? Especially now. And then it was too late. Brian saw it clearly from his vantage point. Her attention was drawn to the idiot threatening her. He was the immediate problem. She didn't even see the other two as they approached from behind. These two had been standing still as the tableau unfolded, but now, with Ms. Sellers distracted, they pounced.

1. Is there such a thing as a fair fight? Should you give someone a sporting chance? Explain your answers. Use complete sentences.

2. Most fights on the inside were not fair fights. Why do you suppose that would be the case? Explain your answers. Use complete sentences.

Something to Teach

Chapter Nine

Directions: Read the excerpt from Chapter Nine and answer the question(s) that follow. Use complete sentences.

An excerpt from the chapter reads as follows:

Other people might have been worried about being locked up. Being told when to eat, when to shower, and when to use the bathroom. Other people might not like having their noses rubbed in the fact that they were not free - not free to live their own lives.

Brian wasn't worried about those things.

He was glad that Ms. Sellers was going to be okay, but he was worried about what other offenders were going to do to him once the facility came off lockdown. If they were willing to risk serious time in segregation for injuring Ms. Sellers, then what would they be willing to do to him? And if Jones was capable of orchestrating a series of fights and assaults while he was still supposed to be locked up in segregation, then what would he be capable of once he was allowed to roam about in the general population?

Brian shuddered.

Ms. Sellers no doubt had a concussion and some loose teeth, not to mention the hard-to-calculate emotional damage she'd suffered in the attack.

"What are they going to do to me?" he wondered.

1. What do you think is going to happen to Brian? What can he do about it? Aren't the staff members supposed to protect him? Explain your answers. Use complete sentences.

Something to Teach

Chapter Ten

Directions: Read the excerpt from Chapter Ten and answer the question(s) that follow. Use complete sentences.

An excerpt from the chapter reads as follows:

Mr. Williams walked to the door, but instead of locking it from the inside, he pulled the door open slightly, stuck his head out, and asked the nearest student, "Who's fighting?"

"It's not a ten-ten," came the whispered reply. "Signal Two thousand."

"What?" Mr. Williams exclaimed, pulling his head inside and closing the door quickly. He locked the door. "Signal two thousand? It's too early in the morning for someone to be that stupid. Plus, we just got off lockdown."

"Mr. Williams?" the student in the middle of the room asked. "What's a 'Signal Two thousand'?"

The young man sitting next to Brian snorted in derision.

"Escape," Mr. Williams said simply.

"Can somebody really escape from here?"

Mr. Williams shook his head. "No. Nobody's going to escape. Not from this place. Somebody's probably scared and doesn't want to go on P.C. so they pretend to try to escape and get locked up in seg for a few days."

1. Some young men plotted their escape while on the inside. Instead of doing their program and earning their release, they would hatch elaborate plans for scaling the fences. Escape was impossible. Why would someone want to waste their time on such a fruitless endeavor? Explain your answer. Use complete sentences.

Chapter Twelve

Directions: Read the excerpt from Chapter Twelve and answer the question(s) that follow. Use complete sentences.

An excerpt from the chapter reads as follows:

The woman looked around the room, surveying its occupants. Her voice took on a sudden and unexpected harshness as she said, "Any of you know who those send-offs were working for?"

There was silence.

"Nobody?" She nodded. "That's fine. Maybe we'll lock this place down for a whole week. And do another search. We'll find more love letters. I've got nothing but time. You all have nothing but time." She paused. "And don't feed me any of that nonsense about not snitching. Somebody always talks. Always."

1. The Lieutenant was right. Somebody always snitches. Always. What does this say about the character of the young men who swore to be "brothers for life" yet snitched on these very same "brothers"? Explain your answer. Use complete sentences.

Chapter Thirteen

Directions: Read the excerpt from Chapter Thirteen and answer the question(s) that follow. Use complete sentences.

An excerpt from the chapter reads as follows:

Brian accepted the proffered pills and the cup of water. He swallowed them, hoping they would take the edge off his headache. He didn't want the pain totally gone though. He needed and wanted a reminder of what Jones and his send-offs could do to him, Ms. Sellers, and anyone else they wanted to hurt. If the pain went away, then he would forget the pain and the fear. Brian didn't want to forget. He wanted to remember. Remember that someone was trying to take a part of him - had taken part of him through fear. And Brian didn't want to be afraid any more.

- 1. What "part of him" had been taken? Explain your answer. Use complete sentences.

Chapter Fourteen

Directions: Read the excerpt from Chapter Fourteen and answer the question(s) that follow. Use complete sentences.

An excerpt from the chapter reads as follows:

"I don't need you to fight my fights," Brian said. "That's my problem. But I do need your help. And you're gonna end up in seg for a few days for helping me. I figure you owe me anyways."

"For what?" Retton protested.

"For getting me sprayed my first day here. Remember?"

Retton grinned. "Okay," he agreed. "I don't mind going to seg, but I think you're gonna get yourself killed."

"Maybe," Brian agreed. "But what choice to I have?"

1. Can all conflicts be resolved by peaceful negotiation? Is there ever a time when violence is the answer? Explain your reasoning. Use complete sentences.

Chapter Fifteen

Directions: Read the excerpt from Chapter Fifteen and answer the question(s) that follow. Use complete sentences.

An excerpt from the chapter reads as follows:

*Brian looked at him and said quietly, "You look scared. Are you scared?"
Jones just stared in stunned amazement.*

1. Is there a difference between vengeance and justice? Explain your answer. Use complete sentences.

Something to Teach

Chapter Sixteen

Directions: Read the excerpt from Chapter Sixteen and answer the question(s) that follow. Use complete sentences.

An excerpt from the chapter reads as follows:

“Jones tried to take something from me. It’s like he tried to take my life but without killing me. I know that sounds stupid, but that’s what it felt like, and that’s worse than being locked up. So I had to do something. I had to fight back. No matter what. No matter how much it hurt. No matter how much I have to pay for it in time being locked up. At least it’s my time now.”

1. Brian will stay locked up longer because of his actions. Is that fair? Do you think he cares? Explain your answers. Use complete sentences.

Epilogue

Directions: Read the excerpt from the *Epilogue* and answer the question(s) that follow. Use complete sentences.

An excerpt from the *Epilogue* reads as follows:

The piece de resistance of this epic meal was the slow-smoked meat and Brian meant to savor every bite. He also meant to savor every word of the book he'd been given as a parting gift. Ms. O'Donnell had even signed it, wishing him well in his new life.

Brian eyed the blackberry cobbler as he scooped up another healthy forkful of brisket, and thought, "It's gonna be a good life here on the outs. My life."

1. Three things to consider (and appreciate) here at the end: freedom, a good book, and good food. What do you appreciate the most about your life? Explain your answer. Use complete sentences.
