

FORGED BY FIRE

SHARON M. DRAPER

Teacher's Guide

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LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

A PERMA-BOUND Production

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SYNOPSIS

CHAPTER 1

Gerald Nickelby is a three-year-old abused by his cocaine-addicted mother Monique. Left alone when Monique goes out to buy drugs, Gerald accidentally sets the apartment on fire.

CHAPTER 2

Rescued by a neighbor, he is taken to the hospital. His burns are deep, but he recovers. From this tragedy comes some good: Gerald's Aunt Queen gains custody. The elderly wheelchair-bound woman takes tender, loving care of Gerald.

CHAPTER 3

Gerald builds a go-kart from Aunt Queen's old wheelchair and gets into an accident. His injuries are minor.

CHAPTER 4

On Gerald's ninth birthday, Monique reenters his life. Gerald meets Angel, his four-year-old half-sister, and Jordan Sparks, Angel's surly father and Monique's new husband.

CHAPTER 5

Gerald and his sister bond. Monique explains how much she wants Gerald back, but he refuses to leave Queen, knowing that his mother is unable to be a responsible parent.

CHAPTER 6

Queen realizes that Monique abuses and neglects Angel, so she assumes custody of the child. Queen promises the children they won't have to return to Monique, but she suddenly collapses.

CHAPTER 7

The kids call an ambulance. At the hospital, they learn that Queen has died of a heart attack. They must live with Monique and Jordan.

CHAPTER 8

Gerald soon discovers that Jordan, who mentally and physically abuses the entire family, is sexually abusing Angel as well. Gerald becomes Angel's protector.

CHAPTER 9

Christmas is as bleak as Thanksgiving was, but Monique cannot rouse herself to leave her abusive husband or nurture and protect her children. Jordan buys Angel a kitten as a tool to sexually abuse her further. Angel is terrified of Jordan.

CHAPTER 10

Gerald contrives to move Angel into his bedroom so that he can protect her from Jordan, but the abuse continues. When Angel contracts chicken pox, Jordan stays home to fondle her, placing her kitten in the oven as a way to buy her silence.

CHAPTER 11

Gerald tells Mr. Washington, the father of a classmate, about Jourdan.

CHAPTER 12

Mr. Washington calls social services. Jordan is arrested and removed from the house but Monique takes his side and calls the children "filthy liars."

CHAPTER 13

Gerald and Angel's testimony helps send Jordan to prison for six-to-ten years. Mr. Washington provides great moral support during the painful process.

CHAPTER 14

Six years pass. Gerald runs the household, as Monique has not changed her ways. Angel has become a fine dancer; Gerald does well in school, works afterschool, and plays basketball.

CHAPTER 15

Rob Washington, Mr. Washington's son, is one of Gerald's best friends. The boys go to an all-you-can eat buffet, sing "Under the Boardwalk," and are rewarded with \$10 each. That night, Jordan Sparks returns, paroled from jail.

CHAPTER 16

Gerald tries to throw Jordan out, but Monique is thrilled to have him back. Mr. Washington helps Gerald cope.

CHAPTER 17

Jordan doesn't attend Angel's dance recital, and Angel performs beautifully.

CHAPTER 18

While buying cigarettes for Jordan, Monique is run over.

FORGED BY FIRE

CHAPTER 19

Monique spends two weeks in the hospital and becomes addicted to painkillers, which Jordan encourages, buying them for her. Mr. Washington keeps tabs on the situation.

CHAPTER 20

Jordan erupts in a rage on a hot day when someone steals his air conditioner. He physically attacks both children, but they don't call the police because they need his income.

CHAPTER 21

Monique sinks deeper into drug addiction. Rob Washington is killed in a car accident, driving with his drunken basketball teammates. The Washington family is shattered.

CHAPTER 22

After the funeral, Jordan attempts to molest Angel. While Jordan and Gerald fight, a fire erupts in the kitchen.

CHAPTER 23

Gerald saves himself and his sister, stepping over Jordan's prone body.

CHAPTER 24

Jordan dies in the fire and the family attempts to rebuild yet again.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Sharon Draper combines a successful career as a writer with a twenty-five year career as a high school English teacher. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1948, Draper earned her B.A. from Pepperdine University and her MA from Miami University, Ohio.

In an interview, Draper explained that she always wanted to be a teacher. She said, "I was an avid reader. I read every single book in the elementary school library, all of them." Draper's literary recognition began when she won first prize in the 1991 *Ebony* magazine Literary Contest, for which she was awarded \$5,000 and the publication of her short story, "One Small Torch."

Among her awards, Draper counts the 1997 National Teacher of the Year, a NCNW Excellence in Teaching Award winner, and Ohio Teacher of the Year. She received the Excellence in Education Award, is a Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award winner, and was the Duncanson Artist-in-Residence for the Taft Museum. In 1998, Draper was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Her award-winning essay on education, "The Touch of a Teacher," was published by the National Governor's Association in the book, *What Governors Need to Know about Education*.

CRITICS CORNER

Sharon Draper has become a popular young adult writer for her tales of real-life problems concerning troubled teens, but reviews of her work are decidedly mixed. Writing for *amazon.com*, reviewer Gail Hudson notes that in *Forged by Fire*, "Draper's strengths (her desire to

delve into tough social issues, such as child abuse, drug addiction, incest, bulimia, and domestic violence) become this book's weakness as the story line teeters on implausible. For example, in less than 20 pages Gerald faces the following: the death of a close friend (a passenger in a car that was driven by a drunk teammate); the discovery of his drunk, evil stepfather trying to sexually assault his younger stepsister; a brutal attack by his stepfather; and a raging apartment fire that threatens to kill them all."

Nonetheless, Kathy Fritts, writing in the *School Library Journal*, pointed out that "the characters' voices are strong, vivid, and ring true. This moving novel will leave a deep impression." In *Publishers Weekly*, a reviewer concluded that "the combination of raw energy and intense emotions should stimulate readers."

OTHER BOOKS BY SHARON DRAPER

Battle of Jericho (2003)

Before the Dawn (2001)

Jazzimagination (1999)

Not Quite Burned Out but Crispy Around the Edges: Inspiration, Laughter, and Encouragement for Teachers (2001)

Romiette and Julio (1999)

Tears of a Tiger (1994)

Teaching from the Heart: Reflections, Encouragement, and Inspiration (2000)

Ziggy and the Black Dinosaurs (1994)

Ziggy and the Black Dinosaurs: Lost in the Tunnel of Time (1996)

Ziggy and the Black Dinosaurs: Shadows of Caesar's Creek (1997)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Something about the Author, Volume 98, Gale, 1998.

American Visions, December-January, 1995, p. 39.

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March 15, 1996, p. 1278; February 15, 1997, pp. 1016-1017.

Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, January, 1995, p. 164;

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Kirkus Reviews, December 1, 1996, p. 1735.

Publishers Weekly, October 31, 1994, p. 64; January 15, 1996,

p. 463; March 25, 1996, p. 85; December 16, 1996, p. 61.

Social Education, April, 1995, p. 215.

Voice of Youth Advocates, February, 1995, p. 338; June, 1997,

p. 108.

FORGED BY FIRE

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To recognize the themes of sexual abuse
2. To probe the causes and effects of drug abuse
3. To explore the issue of family communication
4. To understand the novel's title
5. To assess the effects of poverty
6. To analyze why some people drink and drive, especially teenagers
7. To understand how a dangerous situation can get out of hand
8. To explore the effects of a tragic accident
9. To probe the corrosive effects of grief and guilt
10. To understand the symbolism of fire

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To explore Monique's lack of interest in being a mother
2. To analyze the relationship between Monique and Jordan
3. To compare and contrast Jordan and Mr. Washington
4. To assess the role of personal responsibility
5. To trace Gerald's maturation
6. To analyze life inside an urban high school
7. To understand Aunt Queen's attempts to hold the family together
8. To grasp the role of athletics in identity
9. To evaluate the novel's melodramatic tone
10. To identify the novel's structure, especially its climax

LITERARY TERMS AND APPLICATIONS

For a better understanding of Sharon Draper's style, present the following terms and applications to the novel:

diction is an author's choice of words. In *Forged By Fire*, Draper uses dialect and slang, types of diction, to describe her characters and setting more fully. Dialect shows the way people speak in a certain area. Slang is the language of a particular group. Draper uses the dialect of black teenagers, including the slang "hang with" (spend time with) and "chillin'" (relaxing).

style is an author's distinctive way of writing. Style is made up of elements such as punctuation, word choice, sentence length and structure, figures of speech, and tone. To create her style, Draper uses street slang for some of the boys, Standard Written English for Mr. Washington, and Southern dialect for Aunt Queen. As a result, Draper creates a rich and varied style.

symbol is a person, place, or object that represents an abstract idea. For example, a dove may symbolize peace or a rose may symbolize love. In this novel, the fire in the title symbolizes the crucible that forges Gerald's soul.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Fiction

Laurie Halse Anderson, *Speak*
Lynne Ewing, *Drive-By*
Lynne Ewing, *Party Girl*
Sharon G. Flake, *The Skin I'm In*

Walter Dean Myers, *Monster*

Rita Williams-Garcia, *Like Sisters on the Homefront*

AudioCassettes

The Battle of Jericho

Darkness Before Dawn

Double Dutch

Forged by Fire

Romiette and Julio

Tears of a Tiger

Websites

Sharon Draper's homepage

www.sharondraper.com

Children's Literature Web Guide

<http://www.acs.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/ala98.html> (June 5, 1998).

Cincinnati Public Schools

http://www.cpsboe.k12.oh.us/general/recognition_walnuthills.html (June 5, 1998).

Skillsbank

<http://www.skillsbank.com/pages/rcteache.htm> (June 5, 1998).

Videos/Films

Images & Realities: African-American Children (1996)

The Journey of the African-American Athlete (1997)

Landmarks of Faith: The Heritage of African-American Worship (1999)

THEMES AND MOTIFS

A study of the central issues and situations in Sharon Draper's *Forged By Fire* should include these aspects:

Themes

- abuse
- drinking and driving
- grief and loss
- friendship
- loyalty
- maturity
- loneliness
- poverty
- drug abuse
- tragedy

Motifs

- dealing with immature, selfish parents
- the difficulty of coping with guilt and grief
- the prestige of being a member of a varsity team
- the powerful effect of friendship
- the importance of seeking help for sexual abuse victims
- coping with personal and family tragedy
- the corrosive effects of drug abuse
- the symbolism of fire
- overcoming setbacks and personal problems
- setting plans and establishing career goals

FORGED BY FIRE

MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the novel. Explain the meaning of each. Chapter and page numbers indicate the context from which the item is taken.

1. Mama had once caught Gerald playing with the lighter, and she made the fire come out and she held his hand right over the flame. (Chap. 1, p. 6)
(Here we see two of the main motifs in the novel: abuse and fire. Mama—Monique Sparks—physically and emotionally abuses her children. The abuse represents the fire that tortures and tests Gerald as he grows up.)
2. ...but a shiny, new red ten-speed bicycle. (Chap. 4, p. 32)
(Aunt Queen, alone of his caretakers, treats Gerald with love and kindness. She sacrifices her own comforts to make him happy; here, she does without necessities to buy him a beautiful new bicycle for his birthday, a gift he cherishes.)
3. "I remember you. You tell funny stories." (Chap. 7, p. 46)
(In this poignant scene, Angel remembers the ambulance driver. From Angel's innocent words, readers can infer that Monique physically abuses her, as she did Gerald.)
4. "I'm sorry, ma'am. We did all we could." (Chap. 7, p. 48)
(With Aunt Queen's death, Gerald is thrown back to his mother's custody. Since Monique uses cocaine, beats her children, and neglects them, Gerald faces a rough and dangerous childhood.)
5. "No, baby, that ain't fear—that's respect." (Chap. 9, p. 60)
(Monique explains why she stays with her abusive, neglectful husband Jordan: he takes care of her. She claims that he beats her to show her who is boss. This scene reveals her twisted views of male-female relationships and low self-esteem.)
6. Gerald knew that he was around, just in case. (Chap. 14, p. 90)
(Mr. Washington looks out for Gerald and Angel as much as he can. As such, he is the role-model for a good father and husband, in sharp contrast to the abusive, neglectful Jordan.)
7. Sitting on the sofa, cowboy boots and all, was Jordan Sparks. (Chap. 15, p. 102)
(When he is paroled from jail, Jordan returns to Monique and the children. He also resumes his old abusive ways, grown even more vicious after his jail term.)
8. Rob was...Rob was...Rob's dead. (Chap. 21, p. 136)
(Out joyriding with his drunken teammates, Gerald's close friend Rob Washington is killed in car crash. Gerald is bereft.)
9. "I ain't hungry. I want some...some female companionship." (Chap. 22, p. 146)
(Jordan sexually abuses Angel. Her name symbolizes her innocence and the heinous nature of his crime.)

10. Dead! (Chap. 24, p. 154)
(Jordan dies in the fire, so part of the family's nightmare ends.)

COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

Questions 1-5 (Literal Level)

1. How does Gerald come to live with Aunt Queen?
(His mother loses custody after she leaves him alone in the apartment, he sets a fire, and almost dies.)
2. Why does Gerald return to his mother's care?
(Aunt Queen dies and he has nowhere else to go.)
3. How does Mr. Washington help Gerald and Angel?
(He helps them file charges against Jordan, which leads to Jordan's arrest and imprisonment. He also brightens their holidays with gifts and tries to monitor Jordan's behavior.)
4. Why does Jordan give Angel a kitten?
(He uses threats against the kitten to force her to keep silent about his sexual abuse.)
5. How does Rob Washington die?
(He is killed in a car accident: his basketball teammates were driving drunk.)

Questions 6-8 (Interpretative Level)

6. Why does Monique stay with Jordan?
(She believes that men should beat women to show that men are in charge; she has a warped view of male-female relationships.)
7. How is Jordan able to continue abusing Angel, even after he has served a jail sentence for his crime?
(Monique covers for Jordan's depravity; Jordan terrorizes Angel into silence.)
8. Compare and contrast Jordan and Mr. Washington. How are they the same and different?
(Both are adult black males, but Mr. Robinson is a decent, kind, hardworking man, while Jordan is a lazy, dissolute pervert.)

Questions 9 and 10 (Critical Level)

9. What does the title symbolize in the novel?
(The title represents how Gerald's character is formed.)
10. What does fire symbolize or stand for in this novel?
(Fire represents the trials that Gerald undergoes as he grows up, including physical and mental abuse, neglect, poverty, and the loss of a close friend.)

FORGED BY FIRE

Questions 11-12 (Creative Level)

11. Working with a small group of classmates, discuss some ways that you might have coped with Gerald's situation in his place.
12. Debate how the novel would have been different if Aunt Queen had not died.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

Language Arts

1. Create a new title for the novel and explain its significance.
2. Write a eulogy that Gerald might deliver at Rob's funeral.
3. Writing as Gerald, pen a thank-you letter to Mr. Washington.
4. *Forged By Fire* is the prequel to *Draper's Tears Of A Tiger*. Read *Tears Of A Tiger* and explain Gerald's role in the novel.
5. Write a "poem of hope" for Gerald.

Physical Education

1. Explain the rules of basketball and hold a brief demonstration of the game for your classmates or younger children.
2. Report on the N.B.A. and the W.N.B.A. Include information about each league's history and current status.

Drama

1. Role-play a scene between Monique and Gerald, in which Gerald expresses his feeling about his upbringing.
2. Deliver a speech about the dangers of drinking and driving.
3. Dramatize a conversation between Aunt Queen and Monique.
4. Discuss how Social Services could have helped Gerald and Angel. Explain the agency's role in situations such as these.
5. Debate whether Monique should have lost custody after Gerald was injured in the fire or after Jordan was sent to jail.

Art and Music

1. Design a poster for a movie version of *Forged By Fire*.
2. Divide a piece of paper in half lengthwise. On the left, draw Gerald's life with Monique. On the right, draw his life with Aunt Queen.
3. Make a collage of real newspaper articles about teenagers who died in drunk driving accidents. Display this in your school.
4. Choose a dramatic scene from the novel and select background music. Play the music for the class as you read the scene.

Geography and History

1. Aunt Queen's real name is Queen Marie Antionette Lincoln. Report on her two historical namesakes: Queen Marie Antionette and Abraham Lincoln.
2. The family lives in an urban area. Choose a nearby city and find out how many residents live below the poverty level.
3. Research the history of the fire and ambulance service in America. Share your findings in a brief report.

Science and Health

1. Monique is addicted to both cocaine and painkillers. Choose one of these substances and make a chart showing the extent of this problem in America today.
2. Report on MADD or SADD. Explain whether these groups have been successful in curbing student substance abuse.
3. Create a poster for fire prevention in the home.
4. Create a handbook to help people become aware of the dangers of drinking and driving.
5. Learn more about heart disease, the cause of Aunt Queen's death. Explain how heart disease can be prevented and treated.

Math

1. Graph the number of student athletes who try out for professional basketball teams in one year and how many are actually drafted. What do these results suggest about the likelihood of a teenager having a career in professional sports?
2. Find out how many teenagers live with stepparents.

ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT

1. Explain the symbolism of Angel's love of ballet.
2. Perform a skit to convince teenagers not to drink and drive.
3. Using scenes from the novel, create a mural that shows its main themes.
4. Read another book in the *Hazelwood High Trilogy*. Compare and contrast it to *Forged By Fire*.

FORGED BY FIRE

VOCABULARY TEST

Complete the puzzle by unscrambling each vocabulary word and writing it in the puzzle. When you are all done, another vocabulary word will read down.

	Vocabulary	Definition	Scrambled Words
1.	□ _ _ _ _	skilled	fedt
2.	□ _ _ _ _ _	burning cinder	rembe
3.	□ _ _ _ _ _ _	steady	bleats
4.	_ _ _ □ _ _ _ _	sang softly	denoroc
5.	□ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _	crooked	poisdled
6.	_ _ _ _ □ _ _	royal	glear
7.	_ _ _ _ □ _ _ _ _	broken bones	scuetfra
8.	_ _ □ _ _ _ _ _ _ _	handicapped	isabeldd
9.	_ _ _ _ _ □ _ _ _ _	fancy	leabotear
10.	_ _ _ _ _ □	pouty	unlesl

reading down: _ _ _ _ _

FORGED BY FIRE

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

Complete each of the following descriptions with a name from the list that follows. Place the letter of your answer in the blanks provided.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| A. Mr. Washington | F. Leroy |
| B. Gerald | G. Andy |
| C. Monique Sparks | H. B.J. Carson |
| D. Angel | I. Aunt Queen |
| E. Jordan Sparks | J. Dr. McFall |

- ___ 1. mother of Gerald and Angel
- ___ 2. Monique's cruel, abusive husband
- ___ 3. woman who raises Gerald from age 3 to 9
- ___ 4. Gerald's teammate and Rob Washington's best friend
- ___ 5. man who helps Gerald and Angel get Jordan arrested
- ___ 6. red-headed doctor who treats Gerald when he is burned
- ___ 7. basketball team manager
- ___ 8. the novel's central character
- ___ 9. Gerald's half-sister
- ___ 10. a cocaine dealer

Part II: True/False (20 points)

Mark the following statements T if they are true or F if they are false.

- ___ 1. Gerald sets the apartment on fire to vent his anger at his mother.
- ___ 2. Aunt Queen is an elderly lady who is wheelchair-bound.
- ___ 3. Gerald builds a go-kart from Aunt Queen's old wheelchair and gets into an accident. His injuries are severe and he nearly dies.
- ___ 4. Queen dies of a heart attack.
- ___ 5. Gerald discovers that Jordan, who mentally and physically abuses the entire family, is sexually abusing Angel.
- ___ 6. Jordan is arrested and removed from the house; fortunately, Monique takes her children's side and calls Jordan a "filthy liar."
- ___ 7. Angel becomes a fine dancer, which she enjoys very much.
- ___ 8. Monique gives Gerald and his friends an eerie warning: "Enjoy your youth, my young friends. Tomorrow it may be gone."
- ___ 9. Rob Washington is killed in a car accident, driving with his drunken basketball teammates.
- ___ 10. Jordan dies in a fire and the family attempts to rebuild yet again.

Part III: Motivation (20 points)

Complete each line below with a reason or explanation.

- 1. Monique leaves three-year old Gerald alone so _____.
- 2. Aunt Queen takes custody of Gerald because _____.
- 3. On Gerald's ninth birthday, his mother comes back to _____.
- 4. Gerald wants to stay with Queen because _____.
- 5. Jordan buys Angel a kitten to _____.
- 6. Gerald and Angel testify in court to _____.
- 7. Monique never throws Jordan out because _____.
- 8. Monique is hospitalized because _____.
- 9. Jordan erupts in a rage on a very hot day because _____.
- 10. Gerald beats up Jordan at the end of the novel because _____.

FORGED BY FIRE

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Which characters in *Forged By Fire* do you find most admirable? Why?
2. Compare and contrast Jordan and Mr. Washington.
3. Analyze whether or not the novel presents a realistic portrait of people and their problems. If not, in what events are they sensationalized?
4. Explain what you learned about personal responsibility from this novel.

FORGED BY FIRE

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

Complete each sentence with the correct word or phrase.

1. Left alone when Monique goes out to _____, three-year-old Gerald accidentally sets the apartment on fire.
2. Rescued by a neighbor, Gerald is taken to the _____.
3. Gerald builds a(n) _____ from Aunt Queen's old wheelchair and gets into a minor accident.
4. Queen dies of a(n) _____.
5. Jordan buys Angel a(n) _____ as a tool to keep her in his control.
6. When Angel gets sick with _____, Monique does not take very good care of her.
7. Jordan is arrested and removed from the house but Monique takes his side and calls the children "filthy _____."
8. Gerald does well in school, works, and plays _____ on the varsity team.
9. Jordan doesn't attend Angel's _____, and Angel performs beautifully.
10. Monique spends two weeks in the hospital and becomes addicted to _____, which Jordan encourages, buying them for her.

Part II: Matching (20 points)

Match the following descriptions with names of characters from the list below. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| ___ 1. the novel's main character | A. Rob Washington |
| ___ 2. the black man who helps the children | B. Aunt Queen |
| ___ 3. Gerald's half-sister | C. Andy |
| ___ 4. Monique's drug dealer | D. Monique |
| ___ 5. Monique's abusive husband | E. Mr. Darryl Washington |
| ___ 6. Gerald's kindly relative | F. B.J. Carson |
| ___ 7. the coach of the basketball team | G. Jordan Sparks |
| ___ 8. young man killed in a drunk driving accident | H. Gerald Nickleby |
| ___ 9. Rob's best friend, a fellow basketball player | I. Leroy |
| ___ 10. mother of Gerald and Angel | J. Angel |

Part III: Identification (20 points)

Explain why each is important in the novel.

1. Angel's kitten
2. fire
3. basketball
4. Angel's dancing
5. Gerald's bicycle

FORGED BY FIRE

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Describe the different parenting styles shown in the novel.
2. Trace the novel's plot. Include the rising action, climax, and resolution.
3. Analyze the novel's title and explain its meaning.
4. Describe the author's theme or message in this novel.

ANSWER KEY

VOCABULARY

1. deft
2. ember
3. stable
4. crooned
5. lopsided
6. regal
7. fractures
8. disabled
9. elaborate
10. sullen

reading down: **desolation**

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Matching (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. J |
| 2. E | 7. H |
| 3. I | 8. B |
| 4. G | 9. D |
| 5. A | 10. F |

Part II: True/False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. F |
| 2. T | 7. T |
| 3. F | 8. F |
| 4. T | 9. T |
| 5. T | 10. T |

Part III: Motivation (20 points)

1. she can go out and buy cocaine
2. she loves him and he has no where else to go
3. regain custody of him
4. he loves her and he knows that his mother is unable to be a responsible parent.
5. use as a tool to sexually abuse her further
6. help send Jordan to jail
7. she loves him; she is dependent on him; she does not think his behavior is wrong.
8. she was run over by a car
9. someone steals his air conditioner
10. Gerald is sexually abusing Angel

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Sentence Completion (20 points)

1. buy drugs
2. hospital
3. go-kart
4. heart attack
5. kitten
6. chicken pox
7. liars
8. basketball
9. dance recital
10. painkillers

Part II: Matching (20 points)

1. H
2. E
3. J
4. I
5. G
6. B
7. F
8. A
9. C
10. D

Part III: Identification (20 points)

1. Angel's kitten represents the corruption of love into something hateful. Angel loves her kitten but Jordan uses it as a way to buy her silence and continue his sexual abuse.
2. Fire represents the trials that Gerald undergoes and how they shape his character.
3. Basketball represents an outlet for the boys and a way to make friends.
4. Angel's dancing represents her love of beauty and creativity.
5. Gerald's bicycle stands for love and sacrifice, the hallmarks of good parenting.

Part IV: Essay (40 points)

Answers will vary.

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