Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Pd. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**“The Gun” By Carol Ellis  
Reading Guide**

**Getting Inside a Character’s Head**   
 Today you will analyze Derek’s interior monologue as you read “The Gun”. A first person narrator will often share their thoughts with the reader. When this happens, you are able to infer much about their character. Underline Derek’s thoughts in each paragraph indicated. **Stop reading when you come to each location** in the reading guide and respond to the prompt provided based on the thoughts Derek shares.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Stop Location** | **Prompt** | **Your Response** |
| Paragraph 4  Page 1 | How might Derek be feeling? What inferences can you make here? |  |
| Paragraph 10  Page 1 | What might the information in his inner monologue imply? What inferences can you make? |  |
| Paragraph 15  Page 1 | What tone does Derek’s inner monologue have here? What might this reveal about how he is feeling? |  |
| Paragraph 13 Page 2 | Why is Derek so anxious here? |  |
| Paragraph 4 Page 3 | Explain why Derek tells the complete truth at this point. Do you think he revealed information appropriately? Explain. |  |

**After Reading**

1) Make a prediction about what will happen to Derek after the story. Cite evidence from the last page to support your answer.

2) What do you think the theme of the story is? Explain.  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3) After reading the story, has your opinion on gun control and citizens’ right to bear arms changed? I yes, explain how it has changed and why. In no, why not?  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4) **EXTRA CREDIT**

\*\*\*Write a paragraph where you assume the role of a court judge sentencing Derek for his actions. What punishment would you assign him? What would you say to him while administering the sentence? Finally, do you feel he is responsible (think of what you said about the theme of the story) for the crime and why?