

KID IN A BIN



ROBERT CARTER

Answer the following in sentences:

1. What groups of people would you expect to find in a McDonald's?

2. What sorts of things would be happening there on a typical day?

3. Who is the main character in this story?

4. Where does he live?

5. Why do you think Anthony behaves the way he does when he sees his father and sister?

6. Why doesn't he want to go home with them?

7. Why does he send the message he sends?

We are told how Anthony's mother died, but before this we are given clues to work this out - implication

Evidence	What this implies/tells about Anthony's mother
The picture in the magazine articles have his mother in them, but in the newspaper pictures, Anthony is alone.	This suggests that Anthony's mother used to be around but now is gone.
He remembers how white his mother's scone mixture was before it got put in the oven	
The news article is suddenly interrupted after the words, "Anthony's mother ..."	

Time is passing because Anthony is growing and changing.

Paragraph	Evidence	How we know time is passing
1	'his skin has become whiter'	He must have been indoors for a long time away from the sun
1	'his brown hair is long and greasy'	
13	'his jeans, which are so tight he has long ago stopped doing up the top stud'	
13	'The newspaper cuttings have begun to crack and split along the crease lines'	
16	'There is a tiny freckle like spot on the bony bump of his nose'	
33	Nigel becomes sick from eating rat poison and a lot of his hair falls out'	

The author makes the boy's life in the bin seem normal by showing us that Anthony has a routine, and that McDonald's also has a routine.

Anthony's Routine

- Quote the words from paragraph one that tell us which part of the day Anthony spends inside the bin?
- Look at paragraph 3. What does Anthony do at 11.30 each night?
- According to paragraph 3, who else comes and goes at the same time as Anthony?
- Look at paragraph 14. Explain the two reasons why Anthony always waits for a few minutes before leaving the bin at night?

- Read paragraph 16. Where does Anthony go first after leaving the bin?
- Read paragraphs 12 and 16. What does Anthony eat and drink each day?
- Look at paragraph 1. What happens at McDonald's by the start of the afternoon?
- Look at paragraph 2. What kind of container is always used for the chicken portions?
- Look at paragraph 3. What happens at 11.30 each night?
- Look at paragraph 13. How does the store routine vary on wet days?

We have seen changes in Anthony since he began to live at McDonald's.

- He has put on weight
- He has a spot on his nose
- His hair is greasy

What reasons could there be for this drastic change in Anthony's appearance and health?

Extension Task

The author uses a number of language techniques as he tells the story. We will look especially at repetition

There is one sentence which comes up twice in the story –

‘The griddle is hot and it is time to cook’

What is happening in the paragraph just before this sentence appears?

What do you think the author is trying to say about how Anthony is dealing with his feelings?

What is the author saying about Anthony's life?

Extension Task 2 - The last line of the story is:

'Anthony waits with Nigel for the store to close'

- Do you like the way the story ends?
- Why do you feel this way about the ending?
- Why do you think the author chose to give the story this sort of ending?
- Where do you think Anthony will be living a year after the end of the story?
- What do you think will happen to him if he is found living at McDonalds?
- What difficulties would he face if he tried to live at home again with his family?

ESSAY

Choose a short story which interested you because it deals with a child or a young person. Say what happens to the child or young person and how the author helps you understand the situation the young person is in.

Introduction – give the name of the story and the author and say what you'll discuss

Paragraph 1- short summary of the text

Paragraph 2 – The author helps me to understand the situation Anthony is in by... discuss how Anthony is living, what he's eating, how he's passing time – quote to prove what you say

Paragraph 3 – The author also helped me understand Anthony's situation by...discuss what we think Anthony's home life was like and what happened and who is still there – quote to prove what you say

ESSAY Task continued...

Paragraph 4 as above but discuss why Anthony is living like this and what his future might be like. Think about what he's missing like school, friends...

Conclusion – sum up Anthony's situation and round off what you have written then give your personal response.


Alternative/Extension Tasks

- Storyboard – either on paper or using I.T. split a sheet into 6 or 8 sections. Decide what the main parts of the story are, then draw the story, to show what happens.
- Missing Poster – have a look at the example posters then draw a missing poster for Anthony. It should include a picture, a description (how he looks and his personality), where he was last seen, what might have made him run away, who is waiting at home for him, who to contact and anything else relevant.

Examples...

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF DERRY

MISSING



RICHIE TOZIER
13 YEARS OLD


LAST SEEN JULY 4

*DESCRIPTION: Date of Birth: March 7, 1976 Male, 13 yrs. Height: 61 inches
Weight: 90 lbs. Brown Hair, Brown Eyes, Glasses, Wearing "Freesie's" T-Shirt,
Faded Black Shorts, Grey Canvas Sneakers.*

Persons Having Any Information
Are Requested To Call

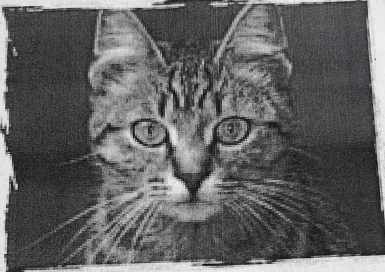
800-131-0728 (207)174-6913

(Not Alaska, Hawaii or N.J.)



Example poster

MISSING



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS CAT?

EVERY YEAR, MORE THAN 10 MILLION CATS, PIGS, FISH, AND OTHER ANIMALS ARE KILLED FOR CLASSROOM DISSECTION.

Most cats on the dissection tray were purchased from shelters, where they were waiting for a new home after having been lost or surrendered. Some cats sold for dissection are simply picked up off the street, stolen from people's yards, or bred in warehouses, where they are often caged in filthy conditions and eventually thrown into gas chambers to be killed.

THIS DOESN'T NEED TO HAPPEN. CHOOSE NOT TO DISSECT.

There are lots of modern and humane alternatives—like computer simulators and models—that save animals, are more effective at teaching students, and save schools time and money.

petaz THE PET ANIMAL TRADE ASSOCIATION

For FREE info on fighting dissection at your school, please visit petaz.com/QuitYourDissection

Storyboard template

Title _____ Name _____





Blank Template – use or create your own

Missing

Have you seen this boy?

Anthony O'Neal went missing from his home on...

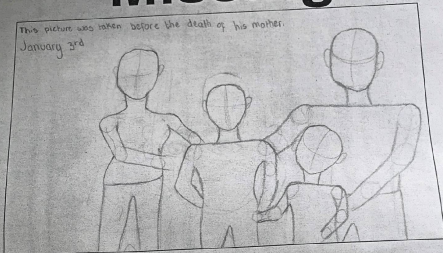
If you have any information, please contact...

This image shows a blank missing person poster template. At the top, the word "Missing" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Below it is a large, empty rectangular box for a photograph. Underneath the photo box is the question "Have you seen this boy?" in a casual, handwritten-style font. To the left of the center is a smaller rectangular box containing the text "Anthony O'Neal went missing from his home on...". To the right of this box is another large, empty rectangular box. Below the right-hand box is a smaller rectangular box with the text "If you have any information, please contact...". The entire poster is enclosed in a thin black border.

Underway...

Missing

This picture was taken before the death of his mother.
January 3rd



Have you seen this boy?

Anthony O'Neal went missing from his home on... August 9th. The Police Force has interviewed his School, his sister and his father. There has been no recent clue to where he is. The Police Force will continue looking.

Police believe his disappearance could be related to his mothers death six weeks earlier. Mrs O'Neal died of metastatic melanoma. This is a cancer caused by too much exposure to the sun.

If you have any information, please contact...
Your local Police department.
You will be interviewed by officers.
Please share all information.