

Reading 2: Teenage Wasteland: Suburbia's Dead-End Kids

Test Bank

Multiple Choice

1. What was the second leading cause of death for America's young people in 1987?

- a. automobile accidents
- b. drug overdoses
- c. drowning
- d. suicide

Ans: d

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Difficulty Level: Easy

2. In the 1980s, "doing it" meant

- a. getting married.
- b. having sex.
- c. drinking alcohol.
- d. committing suicide.

Ans: d

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Difficulty Level: Easy

3. What was historically unique about the Bergenfield case?

- a. It was the first case of murder-suicide in New Jersey.
- b. It involved a teenage suicide pact in which four people died together.
- c. It was the first case of teenage suicide in the United States.
- d. It involved the death of four family members.

Ans: b

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. The four teenagers found in the Camaro had all been labeled

- a. preps.
- b. jocks.
- c. hippies.
- d. burnouts.

Ans: d

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Difficulty Level: Easy

5. What do Joe, Joan, and Susie have in common?

- a. They all had siblings who committed suicide.
- b. They all attempted suicide.
- c. They are all children of divorce.
- d. They all grew up with the author.

Ans: b

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Difficulty Level: Medium

6. At Bergenfield High, metal heads were synonymous with

- a. burnouts.
- b. copycats.
- c. criminals.
- d. preps.

Ans: a

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Difficulty Level: Medium

7. In Bergenfield, what was the criterion for cool?

- a. participation in sports

- b. number of friends
- c. family income
- d. academic performance

Ans: a

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Difficulty Level: Medium

8. Which characteristic of Bergenfield was a contributing factor in the teens' deaths?

- a. There were not enough academically oriented after school activities.
- b. There was no place for nonconforming kids to go.
- c. There was a lack of ethnic and racial diversity.
- d. There was a high unemployment rate.

Ans: b

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Difficulty Level: Medium

9. Who are the "forgotten half"?

- a. youth who attend vocational school
- b. youth who dream of being rich and famous
- c. youth who are unlikely to go to college
- d. youth who have committed suicide

Ans: c

Cognitive Domain: Knowledge

Difficulty Level: Easy

10. Plano, Texas, Leominster, Massachusetts, and Omaha, Nebraska, are all

- a. communities under siege.
- b. fading factory towns.
- c. safety zones for teenage delinquents.
- d. locations of teenage suicide clusters.

Ans: d

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Difficulty Level: Medium

Short Answer

1. Describe the ethical issues the author had to confront before conducting her research.

Ans: When first asked to work on the story, she viewed the suicides from the perspective of a sociologist and social worker. She felt that if she could not help them, she did not want to bother them.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Difficulty Level: Hard

2. Discuss how the sociological imagination helps our understanding of teenage suicide.

Ans: Answers will vary but should include how the personal tragedy of teen suicide becomes a public concern when groups of teenagers form a suicide pact.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Difficulty Level: Hard

3. Why were national rates of teenage suicide higher in suburbs and rural areas in the 1980s?

Ans: Isolation and boredom

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Difficulty Level: Medium

4. What conclusion does the author make about the future of teen suicide in towns like Bergenfield? Do you agree with her conclusion? Why or why not?

Ans: She believes that towns that are indifferent to these teens must offer meaningful choices and opportunities for better lives.

Cognitive Domain: Analysis

Difficulty Level: Hard

5. Which two models dominated the study of teenage suicide for many years?

Ans: The psychological and the medical models

Cognitive Domain: Comprehension

Difficulty Level: Medium