

Civic Minds

Date: Friday, January 15, 2016

E-Edition Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2016

Article Title: **A toddler, a gun and a familiar tragedy**

Section: Main, A7

Vocabulary:

Look up the definition of **tragedy**. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

“It just sounds like from our investigation, it is truly a **tragedy**,” Capt. Terry W. Parker of the Lumberton Police Department said Tuesday.

Comprehension Questions

1. The events that unfolded there just before 11 a.m. Sunday touched a nerve far beyond region, reflecting a growing concern around the country about what?
2. How do many of these accidental shootings happen?
3. What is Trace?
4. Trace said there were _____ incidents of children age 11 years or younger killed or injured by gunfire in 2015, up from 628 in 2014.
5. So far in 2016, such shootings exceed the number of days. The archive shows that as of Jan. 11, there have been _____ shootings involving children 11 or younger.

Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts:

- Gun violence has been in the news a lot lately. Now, we’re learning about the statistics of gun fatalities of children by accidental shootings. Did you know about this problem prior to reading this article?
- Do your parents have a gun in your home? Do your parents take precautions to secure it/lock it away in a safe? Have they talked to you about it and the rules around it?
- What surprised you most in this article?

Many states have rules intended to cover safe storage in addition to laws governing purchase and ownership of guns.

North Carolina law requires owners to store firearms so children do not have access.

- Look up the laws in Washington state about gun ownership and proper storage. What are they?
- <http://www.dol.wa.gov/business/firearms/falaws.html>

Essay

Most of the shootings were accidents, like when an adult drops a gun and it discharges, or when a child happens upon a gun. A 2-year-old in Houston shot himself in the hand on Jan. 3 when he picked up a gun his father was cleaning, and a 9-year old in Trinidad, Colo., was taken off life support on Sunday after he was shot in the head with a gun he and his brother found while sitting in a parked car.

Parker said his department was trying to trace the origins of the handgun to decide whether charges are warranted. He said his officers were still gathering information, including about how the weapon had been stored and why it was in the store. He said his department had been called to the store one or two times in the past for shoplifting cases.

- Kids are curious. What should happen in these cases when parents have been negligent in securing their gun? What should their punishment be? Should parents be held accountable for their actions? Why or why not?

Newspaper-related CBA activity: U.S. Policy

How the United States government interacts with the world affects people across the globe. Analyze and evaluate the causes and effects of US foreign policy on people in the United States and across the world.

- Using The Seattle Times e-edition, find an article from this week that deals with world politics or foreign policy.
- What are the main points of view from someone living in that particular country? How is that “view” similar and different than your own opinion, regarding the specific issue the article is discussing?
- Why is it important to study and learn about foreign policy? How does it help you understand the world we live in, using current issues and events?

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