

# **“Drugs are Scary Murder Mystery” Toolkit**

**Created by Jilian Reece, CCDP Director  
& Jocelyn Marr, CCDP Youth Coalition  
President**

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Hello CCDP community partner!

It is our hope that this murder mystery toolkit will be used to educate youth on substance use and decrease stigma around those who are effected in a way that they will understand and be engaged by.

PLEASE NOTE that this may be difficult for some students who have personal experience with these issues, so please be mindful of big emotions that may arise and prepare resources in advance should you need them.

Our one request in sharing this with you is to send us feedback you receive so that we may continually update and evaluate the program for effectiveness.

The contents of this toolkit are:

- Instructions
- Clues
- Answer Sheet for leader
- Inference Sheet for students
- Pre-Test
- Post-Test

**PLEASE REMEMBER: \*So that we may continually evaluate the effectiveness of this program and how it is being used, please send pre and posttests to [CCDPDirector@Outlook.com](mailto:CCDPDirector@Outlook.com) or via mail to: 546 E Elk Ave. Elizabethton, TN 37643.**

Please let us know if you have any questions at any time or we can support the facilitation of this program in any way.

Sincerely,

Jilian Reece  
Carter County Drug Prevention Director  
Jocelyn Marr  
Carter County Drug Prevention Youth Coalition President

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

## **Instructions:**

### **Set-Up:**

- 1) Cut (and laminate if desired) clues.
- 2) Copy one inference sheet for each participant.
- 3) Place the crime and motive in a sealed envelope

### **Directions:**

- 1) This activity can be used in a large group or smaller groups. Distribute or allow students to choose. Students can be assigned more than one clue if the group is smaller.
- 2) Provide inference sheets for each participant.
- 3) Have students read clues aloud in order.
- 4) Pause after clues 4, 8, 16, 20 and 25 to allow students time to record inferences.
- 5) Facilitate discussion among participants using the following questions:
  - a. Who do you think the killer is?
  - b. How do you think the death occurred?
  - c. What are your feelings about the characters?
- 6) Open and read crime and motive (or leaders may choose to allow one student to open and share).
- 7) Allow students time to discuss what they have learned and how the truth correlates to their inferences using the following questions: (Leaders may want to have trained staff available should personal issues arise and students need additional support).
  - a. Are you surprised at who the killer is?
  - b. What are your feelings about the characters now?
  - c. What did you learn or think about that you didn't know or think about before?
- 8) Provide local resource list for students who may be struggling with or know someone who may be struggling with substance abuse. (Northeast Tennessee Regional Resources here: <http://www.wcadc.com/lifeline>)

## CLUES

1. Parker worked at a locally owned fast food restaurant.
2. Parker has been working there for 9 years. She started working as a 12-year-old because her family struggled to provide her clothes for school.
3. On Tuesday morning, Parker complained about the smell of stinky food in the refrigerator.
4. On Tuesday afternoon, Parker collapsed in front of a visiting group of traveling high school band members.
5. 911 was called and they were able to revive Parker using Narcan and CPR. She told the emergency response team that she had recently relapsed after being sober for several months and declined further assistance.
6. John Jones, restaurant manager, told her to go home, but Parker refused. She wanted to stay at work so she wouldn't lose any of her paycheck.
7. John Jones and Parker did not get along. They went to high school together and Parker always felt as though Jones acted "better" than her.
8. Parker was not a friendly woman. She was not well liked by many of the other staff members. She was often late and appeared disheveled. She took more breaks than

other employees and they were often frustrated with her work ethic. Lately she had been running to the bathroom often- saying she was struggling with stomach issues.

9. On Wednesday morning, Harvey, the morning biscuit maker found the walk in freezer door open.

10. Harvey was an elderly gentleman who was raising his eight and 12-year-old grandchildren. He seemed to get along better with Parker than anyone else. She called him her “work grandpa.”

11. When Harvey went to close the door, he was shocked to see Parker laying frozen in the freezer floor.

12. The police were called and found that Parker had a large gash at the top of her head.

13. The police estimated her time of death to be approximately 10:30 pm on Tuesday evening.

14. After checking the time cards, the only people who clocked out after that time were Jones, Harvey and two dishwashers.

15. Steven, a dishwasher was questioned. He stated that he was in the kitchen washing dishes and never went near the freezer before clocking out.

16. Jones and another dishwasher, Pete, said they Parker sweating, sitting outside on a smoke break before they clocked out, but that was not abnormal behavior.

17. After further investigation, police found a small piece of plastic, broken from a shelf in the freezer, near Parker's head.

18. When police questioned John Jones in his office, the detective noticed a broken bottle in the trash can. He stated that she did not like Parker because she was such a hard employee, but would never hurt her.

19. On Tuesday, four employees called in sick with what they thought to be the flu.

20. Jones called an emergency staff meeting at 4:00 the next day, asking for clues to help detectives.

21. Harvey had a meeting at 4:30 pm at his grandchild's school. He didn't arrive at the meeting until 5:00 pm.

22. Only Jones, Harvey and Parker had keys to the freezer.

23. Camera footage from restaurant security showed Parker seemingly helping Harvey at his car following dinner service.

24. Dishwasher Pete was found to have a violent criminal past.

25. After Parker was identified by restaurant staff, no one claimed her body or scheduled any funeral or burial services.

## **ANSWER SHEET**

### **The Crime and Motive**

CRIME: Parker was killed by an accidental opioid overdose. Harvey was Parker's drug dealer.

WEAPON: Parker struggled with substance use disorder. As a child, Parker grew up in a home with verbally and physically abusive parents who rarely showed her love, provided resources she needed or seemed to care about her or her life. She ran away from home at age nine and bounced through 14 foster homes by the time she was 18. She began using drugs at age 13 to cope with all of the things she had been through after being offered medication by her mother during visitation.

Recently, after finding out she was pregnant, Parker entered an extensive treatment program and was clean for two months, but she recently relapsed after she lost her child via a miscarriage. Because of the overwhelming grief and physical pain, she had been struggling to get to work on time and finish her shift without using. The prescription medication she purchased that day from her former drug dealer, who she faced each day at work, was laced with fentanyl. The gash in her head was caused when she passed out and hit her head on a shelf in the freezer after taking the laced medication on her smoke break. This overdose was somewhat predictable, as a person who has been in recovery for a period of time can lose their tolerance for medication.

MOTIVE: Harvey recently purchased drugs laced with tiny amounts of fentanyl to make them stronger- hoping that people would buy more drugs from him and he would make more money from their addiction to provide his grandchildren with better opportunities.

## MY THOUGHTS

**Inference: a conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning**

INFERENCE #1 (clues 1-4):

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INFERENCE #2 (clues 5-8):

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INFERENCE #3 (clues 9-16):

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INFERENCE #4 (clues 17-20):

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Now, take all the clues and write your final inference (clues 21-25):

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**MYSTERY SOLVED!**

ARE THERE ANY LOOSE ENDS IN THIS CASE? \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT ARE YOU STILL PONDERING? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Drugs are Scary Pre-Test

Gender:

- \_\_\_\_\_

Age:

- \_\_\_\_\_

Grade:

- \_\_\_\_\_

Circle **All** Answers That Apply:

1. Alcohol or drug dependency is

- a. Treatable
- b. Curable
- c. A chronic, progressive condition
- d. Potentially fatal

2. Which factors contribute to the development of addiction?

- a. Genetic makeup
- b. Environmental influences
- c. Absence of moral or spiritual values
- d. Addictive properties of the chemical

3. When larger quantities of a chemical are required to achieve the desired effect, the individual is exhibiting

- a. Progression
- b. Tolerance
- c. Withdrawal
- d. Relapse

4. Most drug users make their first contact with illicit drugs

- a. Through pushers
- b. Through someone they know and care about
- c. Before age 21
- d. In their own homes

Other comments or thoughts about addiction, recovery, etc.

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## Drugs are Scary Post-Test

Gender:

• \_\_\_\_\_

Age:

• \_\_\_\_\_

Grade:

• \_\_\_\_\_

Circle **All** Answers That Apply:

1. Alcohol or drug dependency is
  - a. Treatable
  - b. Curable
  - c. A chronic, progressive condition
  - d. Potentially fatal
2. Which factors contribute to the development of addiction?
  - a. Genetic makeup
  - b. Environmental influences
  - c. Absence of moral or spiritual values
  - d. Addictive properties of the chemical
3. When larger quantities of a chemical are required to achieve the desired effect, the individual is exhibiting
  - a. Progression
  - b. Tolerance
  - c. Withdrawal
  - d. Relapse
4. Most drug users make their first contact with illicit drugs
  - a. Through pushers
  - b. Through someone they know and care about
  - c. Before age 21
  - d. In their own homes

Other comments or thoughts about addiction, recovery, etc.

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Comments about this murder mystery/how we can make it better:

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