

Life and death on Chicago's streets

Erwartungshorizont

I. Comprehension

1. *According to Ed Pilkington, what does life in Chicago look like for young blacks today?*
 - a city divided into two: black and white areas with black neighbourhoods suffering from poverty and its consequences
 - "urban war zone" with gangs waging fights and killing innocent bystanders in cold blood
 - no jobs and nothing going on for black kids
 - for fear of being shot at, young blacks are confined to indoor activities, even in the summer
 - local authorities overstrained with the state of the city; state or national authorities seemingly uninterested
2. *Outline the two projects for young black Chicagoans presented in the text.*
 - Black Star Project: Education programme for young black people; official status with "director" etc.
 - KOB (Kids Off the Block): place to meet, play music and keep off the streets; private "impromptu" youth centre, run by Diane Latiker who saw the need for a safe meeting point for her daughter and her friends and spontaneously "converted" her house.
3. *Elaborate on two reasons for violence and two of the authorities' measures mentioned in the text.*
 - territory, drugs, money, unemployment, blight, neglect, frustration, gangs fighting each other (any two reasons)
 - parents enlisted to act as patrols; extra police officers on the streets; metal detectors at schools; curfews (any two measures).

II. Analysis

4. *Analyse President Obama's role in the context given.*
 - Obama has an ambivalent role.
 - Everybody is appreciative of the new President having to fight a multitude of "wars".
 - However, considering him a Chicago citizen and Afro-American president who in his campaign put special emphasis on race, black Chicagoans are disappointed by his silence.
 - Would a simple assignment really do the trick?

5. *In how far does Pilkington's style of reporting reflect his stance?*
- He employs a mixture of factual reporting and use of emotive language to evoke the reader's compassion and appeal to the authorities for help.
 - exact figures of children killed
 - detailed account of Chastity Turner's last hours
 - precise references to Obama's speeches and promises
 - (pseudo?)-balanced view of the President's role
 - Text reflects thorough journalistic investigation of life in the South Side.
 - use of case study to frame the article
 - quoting victims in direct speech
 - description of the KOB to exemplify what life looks like for the majority of young blacks
 - image of stickers on the map
 - use of martial vocabulary
 - similes and metaphors to amplify the acuteness of the situation
 - interviews testify to first-hand reporting: The author has been there himself and witnessed the despondency of the people.

(any 6)

III. Transfer

6. *You have a choice here. Select one of the following tasks:*
- a) *Imagine you are Aisha Latiker writing to the President. What would your letter look like?*
 - b) *Write a comment on President Barack Obama's presidency so far.*

Individual answers

Bei den Antworten mit dem Vermerk *Individual answers* sind die eigene Meinung und das eigene Argumentationsvermögen der Schülerinnen und Schüler gefragt. Dies erfordert eine schlüssige und sachkundige Argumentation belegt mit Fakten aus dem bisherigen Lernstoff.
Die Akzeptanz der Antwort wird vor allem durch eine sachlogische und faktenrichtige Bearbeitung geleitet.