

Reading for Meaning

**Welcome to the Reading for
Meaning programme.**

**We hope that you will have fun
reading stories and doing activities
with learners.**

**Remember, nurturing and
supporting a child is important
for their physical, emotional and
academic development.**

**ZERO
DROP/OUT**

**Part of the Zero Dropout campaign working towards
halving the rate of school dropout by 2030.**

Reading
for Meaning

Dear Mr Gangster

STORY GUIDE

STORY
8

EACH READER NEEDS...

The story

Pens or pencils

Paper

The Story



INTRODUCE THE STORY

This poem written by a young boy to a big Mr. Gangster will make you think twice about getting into dangerous situations. Mr. Gangster warns the young boy, will the young boy listen or will he end up in a lake like Mr. Gangster warned him?



READ THE STORY...

Read the story aloud, with expression. Change your voice when different characters speak.

Pause briefly for commas, full stops etc. and between paragraphs.

Reading
for Meaning

Dear Mr Gangster



I think you're so cool
You dress so smart
You have flashy cars
And have the latest shoes.

Dear Mr. Gangster
I wanna be just like you
What I got to do to be just like you?
With those flashy shoes.

*Dear young boy
I see you've got no food
Your clothes are all in tatters
And you've got broken shoes
How about I get you a pair?
Will you take it there?*

Yes please, Mr. Gangster
I really wanna wear.

*Just remember
To fetch your number
Then it will all be yours.*

What you mean a number?

Is this a secret code?

I mean it will be yours forever

Until you become a bat.

A bat? A bat?

Why a bat?

What do you mean by that?

It means

*You'll spend your days about the
streets*

And in the night you'll chat.

But what if I wanna leave?

But what if I turn my back?

There's no turning back my friend

You'll be like this

Until the end.

Oh no! Oh no!

What have I done?

Already 3 lie flat.

*It's too late to make a change,
young boy!
Your deeds are already done!*

I didn't mean to use the gun
It happened all too soon.

*It's too late
This is your fate
Now you are my mate!
So now that you are one of us
Just remember your call
You'll have to prove your keep
And have to stand up tall.*

*For if you do not earn your keep
Be certain that you'll fall
This is no game!
You can't be too afraid!
It's already too late!*

But what about my future?
What about my life?

I should've listened to my teacher!

I should've listened to my preacher!

*Yes you should have listened back
then*

But now you'll obey your leader!

So off you go

Enjoy the show

Be sure to enjoy the race

Just remember never to cross me

Or you'll end up in the lake

You'll do as I say

You'll do as I please

You'll lose your humanity

You're forever mine

The world's a mystery

It's full of trickery

Be sure to play the game.



WORD FOCUS

Ask the Readers to choose words that they find difficult and write them on a sheet of paper.

Ask them to use a dictionary or ask someone else at home what those words mean in their home language. Help them out if necessary.



SECOND READING...

Once you've worked out the meaning of the words, read the story again out loud.

Activities

TELL THE CHARACTERS WHAT WE THINK

- 1** After reading the story, ask the Readers to think about what advice they would like to give to the boy?
- 2** They must also think about what they would like to say to Mr. Gangster.
- 3** Now that they have thought about the characters, ask them to write a letter to the boy giving him advice.
- 4** They must then write a letter to Mr. Gangster and say how they feel about him and what he is doing.

- 5** If they would like to, they can share their letters with the rest of the group.

Ending

Praise the Readers for their participation.

Ask if they enjoyed the story, and what they liked best. Tell them you enjoyed it too.

Say goodbye, and say how much you look forward to seeing them next time.

**ZERO
DROP/OUT**

Reading
for Meaning

Part of the Zero Dropout campaign working towards
halving the rate of school dropout by 2030.