

Reading for Meaning

Welcome, story supporter!

**We hope that you and your child
have fun with this story.**

**Nurturing and supporting
your 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



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.

EXTEND THE STORY...

Let's do
a rap song



WRITING
ACTIVITIES

WHAT TO USE

Pen or pencil and a blank sheet of paper

WHAT TO DO

- This is a good time to talk to your child about the dangers of gangsterism. Start by asking them how they feel about this poem.
- If they don't want to talk about how they feel, let them write their thoughts down in a book or on piece of paper. Remember to always follow the pace of the child, and do

what they feel comfortable with.

- Ask your child to write their own poem about one of the people in the poem. The poem can talk about what they think about being a gangster. It doesn't have to be perfect ... they can start with just five lines.

This activity can help your child with thinking and writing skills. It can also be a good way to start talking about issues such as gangsterism.

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