



Why Children Turn Violent!

The recent schoolyard murder of four Arkansas girls and their teacher by two very young boys was front-page news not only in America but all over the world.

Why should these young boys spray bullets into a crowd of their peers? How could such young hearts turn that cold? Anyone who says there is a single cause is ignoring the complexity of the problem.

It's clear that kids who grow up surrounded by violence on the street, in the home, in electronic games become less sensitive to it. A lack of parental authority places any child at risk - especially if television is running all day. It is not true that kids are doomed to stimulate every atrocity that they see on TV or in video games. But experts agree that a constant exposure to television can distort children's sense of the world. When violent action is all they see, the lesson they learn is that everybody does it and that is the way to behave.

However, without access to guns, these kids might break a couple of windows. It would be a little pain, but it wouldn't be mass murder. Unfortunately, kids have access to five-arms. Americans have 200 million of them. More than half of these arms are stored unlocked, 16% are both unlocked and loaded. Andrew Golden, the young boy implicated in the last assault had long boasted to friends that he could get to his family weapons anytime he wanted. He wasn't kidding!

Short of banishing guns, can we hope to prevent such tragedies in the future? Experts say many kids could be diverted from killing if parents and teachers simply paid more attention to what children say. Many kids give clear indications, but they are not taken seriously. We need to take violence threats as seriously as we take threats of suicide. Care takers and peers should intervene when they see a child withdrawing, or exploring in rage over everyday frustrations. More important, experts say, we need to teach children to resolve conflicts in a calm and peaceful manner.

I.COMPREHENSION:

Base your answer on the text

X A. Choose the right answer:

This article is about:

- a) Child abuse
- b) Street killing
- c) Teenage crime
- d) TV violence

I should

2. You must pay Taxes no matter who you are.

Regardless of

3. Jim didn't film the accident as his camera was out of order.

If

4. If you don't respect his will, he won't rest in peace.

Unless

5. They walked quickly because they wanted to be home quickly.

.....so as to

C. Complete these sentences with the correct form of the words between brackets.

1. The police have given the following (describe) of the criminal.

2. The second world war caused a great deal of (destroy)

3. In 1940 the famine caused tremendous (suffer) in Morocco.

D. Put the verbs in brackets in the correct tense:

The Titanic which James Cameron (produce) last year, recently (win) 11 Oscars. James Cameron (be) one of the best producers in the world.

III. WRITING:

Are you for or against living in a big city?

Write an article for your center magazine discussing the topic and giving the advantages and disadvantages of living in a big city.

✗ B. Are these statements true or false? Justify

- ✗ 1. Children nowadays are exposed to violence everywhere.
- ↗ 2. Television teaches children that violence is a normal human behaviour.

↗ C. Answer the following questions:

- ✗ 1. What event has started the recent discussion on children's violence?
- ↗ 2. Do American children have easy access to arms at home? Explain?
- ↗ 3. According to the writer, how can we prevent school violence? Give two examples.

D. Find in the text words meaning almost the same as:

1. Imitate (paragraph 3):
2. Violent attack (paragraph 4):

II. LANGUAGE:

✗ A. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate connectors from the list: Since - however - except - although - consequently - such as

- ✗ 1. Children should not watch anything on television cartoons and educational programmes.
- ↗ 2. Most British people enjoy reading tabloid newspapers "The sun" or "The daily Mirror".

B. Rewrite the following sentences beginning with the words given:

- ✗ 1. My friend Ahmed passed his final exam but I didn't congratulate him.