

Scenario 1: What are the strains on Jerrell?

Jerrell, 15, is the only child of Marjorie. Marjorie relies on TANF and food stamps to raise Jerrell. Marjorie has not worked in several years. She finished high school the year Jerrell was born. Jerrell never knew his father.

They live in a one bedroom apartment in ____ Houses. Jerrell sleeps on the couch. Marjorie has had several boyfriends in the last 5 years. Some of them have been generous to Jerrell, others have viewed him as a nuisance. Some men have been a source of conflict and Jerrell has expressed his anger to his mom; once he punched a hole in the wall after one of Marjorie's boyfriends slapped him for his "attitude."

To get to school, Jerrell must get up at 6 a.m. and take 3 buses. He has a strong group of friends who are into basketball and hang out together after school. Sometimes they smoke pot, but they don't do it a lot or venture into the heavier stuff. Jerrell's grades are steadily in the "C" range. While teachers see Jerrell's potential, he does not, and has no idea what their praise means. He is urged to try out for the basketball team but doesn't. In the summers, he looks for jobs around the neighborhood; he's not aware of nor has he ever signed up for the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Jerrell gets arrested.

Identify:

- the strains Jerrell is experiencing;
- his vulnerabilities as a teen
 - What would seem like a reward to Jerrell?
 - What might seem like a good idea/influence to Jerrell?
- What factors would protect Jerrell from his vulnerabilities?

Guess:

- When Jerrell is arrested, what is he charged with?

Scenario 2: What are the strains on Emily?

Emily, 14, goes to middle school. She lives in an apartment with her mother, older sister and her older sister's boyfriend, her younger brother. Emily shares a room with her mother; her brother sleeps on the couch, and her sister and her boyfriend use the other bedroom. Emily's family has moved 3 times in the last 2 years; they keep getting evicted when Emily's mom can't always make the rent.

Emily's father has not been in the picture for over 10 years. The apartment has 2 bedrooms and one bathroom and is paid for by a Section 8 voucher.

Emily's mom is a secretary and works downtown. She takes the bus to get there. She has held this job for 12 years but her salary has not increased—the cost of living has. This is why she often can't make rent. She is too proud to take food stamps. Emily's mom has diabetes and some heart problems and sometimes misses work. Emily's older sister and boyfriend are going to TRI-C. They are a solid couple and work at part-time jobs to bring in extra cash. Emily's younger brother is autistic and needs special attention and care. Emily has to watch out for him so that he does not get bullied. He is brought to school with a special school bus.

To get to school, Emily must take 2 buses. She is getting solid B's and really likes math and chemistry; her teachers invite her to attend STEM programs but she says she can't. She does not attend after school programs because she has to go home to take care of her brother.

Emily gets arrested.

Identify:

- the strains Emily is experiencing;
- his vulnerabilities as a teen
 - What would seem like a reward to Emily?
 - What might seem like a good idea/influence to Emily?
- What factors would protect Emily from her vulnerabilities?

Guess:

- When Emily is arrested, what is she charged with?

Scenario #3: What are the strains on Devin?

Devin, 15, walks to school on _____ Avenue. He often walks with other pals from school and his neighborhood. His father is an engineer and his mother runs a private daycare from their home, since Devin turned 10.

Devin has two older siblings; one is in college and one has graduated and is working in Chicago. Devin has a room of his own with a desk. He fights with his father who thinks Devin should do more to get his grades up if he wants to go to a good school. Devin's father hopes Devin will get in to Case Western—a school he'd always wanted to attend but could not afford.

Devin's mom is easier to get along with, for Devin. Devin is doing well in school; mostly A's and B's; he knows his parents would not accept anything lower than that.

He likes math and physics and his parents have taken him to Air & Space Museum in Washington, D.C. for a weeklong summer camp. He belongs to the physics club after school and is part of the soccer team from school. Devin is not popular but he is not unpopular either. He's tried pot a couple of times but is not a big fan. He likes gaming mostly.

Devin gets arrested.

Identify:

- the strains Devin is experiencing;
- his vulnerabilities as a teen
 - What would seem like a reward to Devin?
 - What might seem like a good idea/influence to Devin?
- What factors would protect Devin from his vulnerabilities?

Guess:

- When Devin is arrested, what is he charged with?