MAGAZINE ARTICLE

Violence Hits Home

Connect Across Texts

In "Fear," Zo faces Intruders who are trying to break into his house. In this magazine article, a teen struggles against violence in his own community.

A Bad Situation

Growing up in Oakland,
California, Antonio Bibb knew
about violence. His community has
been plagued by murders, battles
between gangs, and robberies. So
when Antonio heard about an antiviolence program for high school
students called Teens on Target,
he was intrigued. He was in the
seventh grade at the time, but
promised himself that when he got
to high school, he'd join the group.

Antonio knew lots of kids who had lost family members to violence. He felt lucky he hadn't, and he wanted to do something positive. "I felt like there was no way to stop violence, but I hoped I might be able to change things a bit," Antonio, now 18, says.

He also wanted to show others that he was on the side of peace. "Pretty much every adult on my dad's side of the family has been in jail, including my dad," Antonio says. "Even when I was young, people were starting to judge me and categorize me because of that."

Positive Start

In his freshman year, Antonio joined Teens on Target. By tenth grade, he was doing well in school and had become a leader in the program. He got to travel to Maryland for an anti-violence conference. "It was more than an extracurricular activity to me," Antonio says. "I really felt like I was helping to stop younger kids from making the same mistakes adults in their families might be making."

Interact with the Text

| 1. | Ma | ke | Connections |
|-----|-----|----|-------------|
| Cir | rle | n | obrase that |

circle a phrase that explains how people treated Antonio. Describe a time when you felt that someone judged you before they got to know you. How does this help you understand Antonio?

Key Vocabulary

intruder n., someone who goes where he or she should not go

violence n., physical action that is very rough, harmful, and mean

· positive ad.. good, helpful, favorable

In Other Words

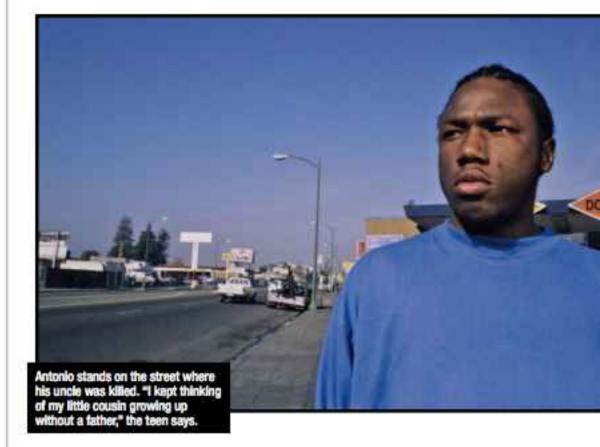
has been plagued by has had many intrigued very interested an extracurricular activity to me something I did outside of school

2. Development of Ideas

Read the caption on this page. Explain how the photo and caption help you understand Antonio's feelings.

Interpret

Underline a sentence in the second column that tells how Antonio reacted to his uncle's death. How would responding with revenge change everything he had worked for with Teens on Target?



Then, one day during his junior year, Antonio received terrible news. Antonio's Uncle Michael, with whom he had been extremely close, was shot and killed on a street, in a case of mistaken identity.

"My father told me and I didn't believe it," Antonio says. "It didn't really **sink in** until I flipped on the news and I saw another one of my uncles on the air talking about it." Antonio says that he walked through the next several months feeling a combination of disbelief and sadness. His family was in turmoil. "They were broken," he says. Sometimes, Antonio had thoughts of revenge —of turning to violence himself and tracking down his uncle's killer. "I kept thinking of my little cousin growing up without a father," he says.

Key Vocabulary

revenge n., the act of hurting someone who has hurt you

In Other Words

in a case of mistaken identity by a killer who thought the uncle was someone else sink in seem real in turmoil upset and confused tracking down finding

4. Development of Ideas

Read the heading of this section. Explain what you think this section of the article will be about. What other features of a magazine article does this page display?

Teen in Turmoll

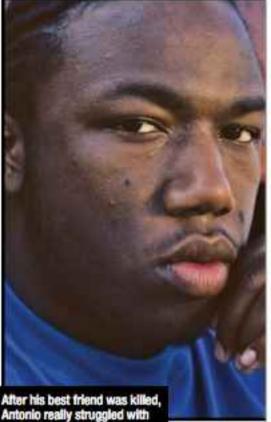
Experts say Antonio's reaction was normal for a teen who has lost a close family member to violence.

"Revenge fantasies are common," says Kenneth J. Doka. a professor of psychology at the College of New Rochelle in New York and an expert in grief and dying. "The key, of course, is helping people not act out on those feelings."

Thanks to his work with Teens on Target. Antonio understood that and did not seek revenge. The memory of his uncle, who Antonio says was "a very powerful and positive man," also helped.

In the fall of his senior year, Antonio was starting to feel like his old self. Then, tragedy struck again, "I lost my best friend in a gang-related shooting," he says. Antonio snapped back into revenge mode, and this time it was worse.

"I was ready to guit Teens on Target," he says. "I felt like I had to get back at somebody. There was no reason for my uncle and my friend to die, and I was going to do something about it."



Antonio really struggled with thoughts of revenge.

Key Vocabulary

· reaction n., what you think or do because of something else

In Other Words grief deep sadness snapped went

To the Resoue

Who kept Antonio from snapping? A woman named Teresa Shartell. Teresa is the Teens on Target program coordinator with whom Antonio had been working since his freshman year. She was his teacher, counselor, and friend.

"Teresa reminded me that lots of kids we work with were going through the same situation I was, and that now I was in an even better position to motivate them," Antonio says. "She said they'd see how I was reacting to my situation and that would really help them out."

Antonio says he "took what Teresa said and ran with it. I realized that we're all going to go through pain. It's what you choose to do with it that makes you the person you are."

The teen threw himself into his work with Teens on Target with more passion than ever. He also vowed to serve as an inspiration for his now-fatherless cousin. "A lot of kids turn to violence because they see it at school and at home; they don't have strong role models," Antonio says. "I'm trying to be that role model for my cousin."



Key Vocabulary

 motivate v., to give reason to, to inspire, to stimulate in Other Words

snapping doing the wrong thing ran with it really used it, really applied it threw himself into his work decided to work intensely vowed to serve as an inspiration for promised to act the right way to help

5. Interpret

Underline the idea in the first column on page 202 that caused Antonio to become a better role model. Explain how he can be a better role model now.

Root Causes

WHAT CAUSES VIOLENCE? HOW CAN VIOLENCE BE AVOIDED?

FEAR. If someone is afraid to walk down a street, he or she may carry a weapon for protection. A better idea is to talk to someone like a parent, teacher, or counselor who can help resolve a tense situation peacefully.

STEREOTYPING. Violence can result when people are judged by their looks, dress, or whom they hang out with. A better idea is to get to know people before you decide how you feel about them.

BAD ROLE MODELS. If kids grow up surrounded by violence, they're going to emulate it. Providing positive role models and teaching kids to act peacefully can prevent future violence.

A LIFe's Work

Antonio plans to devote his life to the fight against violence. That includes making sure as few people as possible have to go through the kind of losses he's experienced. One of his goals is to reduce the number of guns on the street. "If it hadn't been so easy

to get guns, I think my uncle would still be living," Antonio says.

Now a high school graduate, Antonio has continued to work with Teens on Target and is shopping around for a college to attend, "My life is pretty blessed right now," he says, "I'm doing

6. Development of Ideas

Explain how the text box on this page adds important information to the magazine article. Summarize its main points.

7. Make Connections

Circle phrases that tell you about Antonio's goals. What kind of connection can you make to Antonio's goals?

In Other Words emulate copy devote dedicate

8. Interpret

Underline three phrases or sentences that show some of Antonio's advice. Explain his message in your own words.

exactly what I want to do." Antonio is used to giving advice to kids. "Be a leader. Stop following everyone else," he says. "It doesn't matter if you can't buy the stuff you think is cool from movies

and videos—some Phat Farm or some Sean John or whatever it is. Just be yourself. The more you shine for yourself, the more you can shine in front of everybody else."

In Other Words

some Phat Farm or some Sean John popular clothes or shoes

Selection Review Violence Hits Home

A. Choose one story detail below and make a connection. Identify the connection as Text to Self, Text to Text, or Text to World.

Story Detail 1: Story Detail 2: Antonio knows at a young age that he wants to work for peace.

Antonio chooses to do what is right and does not seek revenge.

Connection:

- B. Answer the questions.
 - 1. What features of the magazine article helped you understand what the writer was saying?

2. If you wrote an email to Antonio, what would you tell him about revenge?