

My cousin Jerome is one of the smartest people I know. But sometimes he makes mistakes. Like the time he went to the store and took a shirt. His friend dared him to do it. He did it quickly. He thought no one had seen him do it. But he was wrong.

The store manager called the police. They came right away. Jerome was 17. They said, "Do you know what you've done? You've got yourself a record. That will stay with you all your life."

Jerome asked the store manager to let him go. He apologized. He said, "I really didn't mean to do it. I'm sorry. I wanted to get a present, and I didn't have enough money."

The manager said, "We have had too many thefts. We can't let you go. Then everyone else will think they can just take things. We need people to know you can't do that."

So the police took him to the station. They fingerprinted him. They told him he could make one phone call. He called me. He said, "I don't want to tell my mother. She will be so mad."

I told him I had to tell his mother, that I could not help. I was 21. So I could have gone there. I could have helped him out. But he really had to tell his mother. He started crying on the phone. But I didn't let it go. I said I would call his mother.

I did call her. I told her what had happened. She and I went to the police station together. We talked with the police officer who had arrested him. We asked what the next steps should be.

The police officer said that they could ask a judge to let him have a suspended sentence. That means that Jerome would not have to go to jail. "Don't let this happen again," the judge said. "You have the rest of your life. You don't want to spend it here. I don't want to see you again."

Jerome has been very careful ever since that day. I'm sorry he had to learn this lesson the hard way.

Identify, analyze, and infer motive - Fiction

Questions developed by Center for Urban Education for use by Chicago Public Schools 2008-2009.

Choose the best answer for each question.

1. Why did Jerome’s cousin tell his mother?

- a. She didn’t like Jerome.
- b. She wanted to help Jerome.
- c. She was sad.
- d. She was worried.

3. Why did Jerome steal the shirt?

- a. to show off
- b. to get a present
- c. to help his mother
- d. to get a free shirt

2. Why was Jerome afraid to tell his mother?

- a. His mother would be angry.
- b. His mother would be disappointed.
- c. His mother would not help him.
- d. His mother did not have money.

4. Why did the judge tell Jerome he did not want to see him again?

- a. He did not like him.
- b. He wanted him to learn a lesson.
- c. He was angry.
- d. He was sorry for Jerome.

5. *Write your own answer to this question. Why did the manager have Jerome arrested?*

TEACHER NOTES: Develop Students’ Skills: Exercise Thinking

These questions have not been validated, so decisions about student’s achievement should not be made based on their responses. They are intended to exercise skills. Recommended activities include: students work in pairs to choose the best response; give students the questions without the responses so they generate their own answers; students make up additional questions; students make up questions like these for another passage.

Answers: *You can remove this answer key and then give it to students and ask them to figure out the basis for the correct response.*

Item	1	2	3	4
Answer	b	b	a	b

Question 5 is open-ended. Here is a suggested response.
The manager wanted to protect his store from losing money. He wanted to set an example.