

Long



Way



Down



**NONFICTION
CONNECTIONS**



RESOURCE CONTENTS

- 4 Nonfiction Activity Sets
 - Focused on the Themes of Revenge, Social Norms, Gun Violence & Forgiveness
 - 4 Informational Texts, Variety of Activities, Final Project
- Synthesize Texts with *Long Way Down*
- Google Slides™ Links for Google Drive™
- Standards-Aligned Resources
- Answer Keys for Informational Texts

TEXTS & ACTIVITIES

Nonfiction Activity Set 1: Revenge

- Anticipation Guide: The Line Between Justice & Revenge
- Informational Text: The Psychology of Revenge
- Justice or Revenge – Defining Scenarios
- The Nature of Revenge – Scientific Experiments
- Beyond the Elevator – Making Connections Across Texts

Nonfiction Activity Set 2: Social Norms

- Anticipation Guide: The Rules That Rule
- Informational Text: The Unwritten Rules
- Breaking the Rules – Impractical Jokers
- Rules of School – Our Social Norms
- Beyond the Elevator – Making Connections Across Texts

Nonfiction Activity Set 3: Gun Violence

- Anticipation Guide: The Cycle of Gun Violence
- Informational Text: The Toll of Gun Violence
- Gun Violence in America – Data Analysis
- Inquiry-Based Learning – Research Activity
- Beyond the Elevator – Making Connections Across Texts

Nonfiction Activity Set 4: Forgiveness

- Informational Text: The Power of Forgiveness
- Final Project: Payback or Let Pass?

INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

The Psychology of Revenge

Informational Text

Name: _____

Stop & Jot



In the space below, jot down details from the first page that stick out to you for each category.



New Learning



Surprising Detail



Personal Connection

Revenge is a timeless theme in literature. From Ancient Greek tragedies to Shakespeare's play *Hamlet* to Hollywood blockbuster movies like *Gone Girl*, revenge is a common theme that draws the interest of authors and readers alike. It does for a reason, and the psychology¹ of revenge also even fascinates modern scientists. They have been studying why people seek revenge, the effects of exacting² it, and how it influences social groups. Perhaps this is why revenge is such a common theme; we often think about it in our own lives, and it likely shapes how we deal with certain people or situations. We even may wonder whether the age-old adage³ "revenge is sweet" is, in fact, true. Literature and science both have something to say about it.

What Is Revenge?

Oftentimes, revenge and punishment are terms used interchangeably. However, the two concepts are distinctly different. The **act of revenge** is a response to a perceived wrong. For instance, if a scientist steals an idea for an invention from a coworker and takes all the credit, the wronged party may want to "get even" and make the unethical⁴ colleague suffer. **Punishment** on the other hand is exacted for the purpose of changing a less-than-desirable behavior. For example, throwing food in the cafeteria may result in detention, and the punishment is designed to ensure the individual does not throw food again. As you can see, revenge plays a distinct role in a person's response to a perceived wrong. It is a way to make another person suffer for the wrong they exacted on another. A lesson may be learned in the process, but it's not the explicit⁵ goal. Punishment, on the other hand, is not necessarily intended to cause suffering – though it may – so much as it is intended to teach a lesson.

- 4 Nonfiction Readings
- Educational Text Features
- Glossary of Key Vocabulary
- 2-3 Pages Per Reading

INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

Why Do People Seek Revenge?

Many factors influence a person's decision to seek revenge, including their personality, beliefs about revenge, and ability to regulate⁶ emotions. In combination, these factors make revenge a complicated concept to understand because personal attitudes affect how or even whether it is carried out. For example, studies have found people that highly value power and reputation, have an inflated⁷ confidence, and a sense of entitlement tend to seek revenge more often on those that wrong them. Also, individuals that view revenge as a cathartic⁸ act – one with therapeutic or healing feelings associated with it – will tend to use revenge as a response to injustice. Finally, those that struggle to control anger and regulate emotions find that these feelings fuel the desire for revenge.

Certain attitudes, like those listed above, help us understand who is more likely to seek revenge. Other studies have uncovered what motivates people to seek revenge. What has been learned is that pain and reward can be linked in the brain through revenge. When a person experiences emotional pain through insults or rejection, the area of the brain associated with pain activates. However, this same area of the brain is also connected to the reward center. Therefore, when emotional pain activates the brain, the opportunity to exact revenge can mask that pain by triggering the reward center of the brain. As a result, revenge can feel rewarding or sweet in the moment. Still, studies have shown that the immediate reward response is fleeting. Those that use revenge often feel worse afterwards, continue to think about the perceived wrong even after the “vengeful” act, and do not feel a sense of closure. Labeled the “**revenge paradox**,” these feelings demonstrate that the goals associated with revenge, such as “getting even,” typically result in the opposite effects, such as remorse.⁹

Did You Know?



→ When a person feels anger, the amygdala, or area of the brain that processes emotions and fear, is active.



→ When person suppresses a desire for revenge, the area where self-control processes occur is active.



→ The part of the brain responsible for reward-seeking behavior is active when plotting revenge

- Appropriate Spacing to Allow for Annotation
- Common Core-Aligned
- Informational Texts and Science Standards
- Critical Thinking Opportunities

INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

Informational Text Analysis A
Name: *The Psychology of Revenge*

TEXT FEATURES Directions: Fill out the following organizer, identifying the key features of the informational text.

Feature 1: Did You Know?

What is it? Name/describe the feature.

How does this feature contribute to your understanding of the whole article?

TERMS & VOCABULARY Directions: Define the key terms below by using context clues from the text.

Act of revenge	
Punishment	
Revenge paradox	

MAIN IDEA & DETAILS Directions: Fill out the graphic organizer below in order to determine the main idea of the text.

Title:

Key Detail 1:	Key Detail 2:	Key Detail 3:
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Main Idea: What is the article mostly about?

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➤ Comprehension & Analysis Questions

➤ Format A – Text Features, Main Idea

➤ Format B – Analysis Questions

➤ Depth of Knowledge Prompts

INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

Informational Text Analysis B

Name:

The Psychology of Revenge

➤ 2 Formats to Allow for Differentiation

➤ Use for Centers or Rotation Model

➤ Pair with Novel – Cross-Text Connections

➤ Answer Key & Google Slides™ Links

1. Define revenge. What is it? How is it different from punishment? Why do you think this is an important distinction to make? Support with textual evidence.

2. According to the article, who is more likely to seek revenge? Why do people seek revenge? Explain at least two motivators and support with details.

3. The author includes the adage: "revenge is sweet." What does that mean in scientific terms? Is the saying true? Why or why not? Describe and support with details from the text.

4. What was the purpose of revenge in early societies? How has that purpose changed with modern society? Explain and support with evidence from the text.

5. Based on the article, what is the author's tone or attitude towards revenge? How does the author reveal this tone? How does it influence your feelings or ideas about revenge? Explain with evidence from the text.

6. Why might the author include the "Did You Know?" text feature? What does it reveal about the science of revenge? Support with details.

ENGAGING ACTIVITIES

Is It Justice or Revenge?

Defining Scenarios

Name: _____

➤ 9 Extension Activities

➤ Variety of Materials – Engage Different Learning Modalities

➤ Foster Critically Thinking & Real-World Connections

➤ Rigorous Questions

Directions: There is a fine line between revenge and justice, and they are often conflated with one another. However, important distinctions exist. Let's examine these distinctions and then apply the concepts to scenarios, debating whether they are examples of revenge or examples of justice.

Key Differences

Revenge	Justice
<p>Revenge is primarily _____.</p> <p>Revenge is a response to a perceived wrong, an effort to "get even" and inflict harm on the wrongdoer.</p>	<p>Justice is mostly _____.</p> <p>Justice seeks to right a wrong in an impartial, fair way. The morality of justice is based on societal standards for equity and even law.</p>
<p>Revenge is more _____.</p> <p>The purpose of taking revenge is to get even for personal reasons whether it feels just or not.</p>	<p>Justice is _____, _____, and based in law.</p> <p>Justice is impersonal because it is based in morality or correctness where a principle or law has been broken.</p>
<p>Revenge is an act of _____.</p> <p>An act of revenge is retaliation and makes the avenger a wrongdoer, even if some sort of <i>personal</i> justice is achieved.</p>	<p>Justice is an act of _____.</p> <p>Justice is based on fairness and law, and the wrongdoer receives "punishment" that is impartial and deserved.</p>
<p>Revenge tends to create a _____.</p> <p>Vengeful acts tend to cause more vengeful acts, creating an endless loop.</p>	<p>Justice tends to create _____.</p> <p>When justice is served, it offers an end to the conflict. If punishments are warranted, they are agreed upon and remain fair.</p>
<p>Revenge is more about _____.</p> <p>Vengeful acts are usually fueled by anger or shame, causing a person to act out aggressively in response.</p>	<p>Justice is about restoring _____.</p> <p>Justice aims to bring about equity by doling out punishment that is objective and fair.</p>

ENGAGING ACTIVITIES

Directions: Read each scenario carefully and consider whether it is an example of revenge or an example of justice. Then, choose whether you believe it is revenge or justice by circling the word. Then, explain your reasoning.

Scenario 1: While trying to park your car in the grocery store parking lot, you see another customer leave their cart in the empty spot you wanted to park in. Now, you can't park in the spot because of the cart. You decide to put the cart behind the patron's car, preventing them from driving away. You finally park your car.

REVENGE

JUSTICE

Explain why you agree or disagree believe the scenario is an example of revenge or justice:

Scenario 2: A thief steals your bike while you're at work. Surveillance footage reveals the thief's identity, so you go to their home, take your bike back and slash all four of their car tires.

REVENGE

JUSTICE

Explain why you agree or disagree believe the scenario is an example of revenge or justice:

- Allows for Differentiation
- Standards-Aligned – Informational Texts
- Pair Activities with Informational Texts & Novel
- Rich, In-Depth Exploration of Themes

ENGAGING ACTIVITIES

The Nature of Revenge

Scientific Experiments

Name: _____

Directions: For this activity, you will watch two science experiments that aim to determine if moral instincts are an innate (natural) part of human nature. As you watch the experiments, complete the graphic organizers. Then, answer the questions that follow.

Watch each experiment at least two times to fully understand the purpose and results.

<https://rmpbs.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/nvtvp-sci-humaninstincts/human-instincts-for-justice-and-revenge-the-violence-paradox/>

Video 1: Are We Born with Moral Instincts?

Who are the participants in the study? Describe the general age of the participants.

Summarize the first puppet show skit. What happens?

What is the result of the show? What choice do the participants seemingly make?



Summarize the second puppet show skit. What happens?

What is the result of the show? What choice do the participants seemingly make?



What do the scientists claim the experiment reveals about matters of fairness, justice, and human nature? Do you agree with the scientists' findings about justice? Why or why not?

Consider the concept of revenge. How does the experiment connect to revenge? Do you think it has more to do with revenge or justice? Why?

➤ Foster Rich Discussion

➤ Examination of Science of Revenge, Social Norms & More

➤ Prompts Require Evidence-Based Responses

➤ Cross-Curricular Learning

THOUGHTFUL ANALYSIS

E C S *Beyond the Elevator*

Directions: You've engaged in thoughtful debate about revenge and justice and read "The Psychology of Revenge." Now, it's time to apply your new knowledge and insights about this essential theme back to the novel, *Long Way Down*.

E Consider the differences between revenge and justice. Now, apply your knowledge and insight of these concepts to Will's situation. Do you believe Will seeks revenge or seeks justice? Why?

C How does Will's community view revenge and justice? How do we see these views influence Will's perspective and action?

S Consider societal perspectives of revenge and its systems of justice. How might the way Will's community view revenge and justice be influenced by larger societal forces? How then does this influence shape Will's beliefs and actions?

➤ Encourage
Critical Thinking

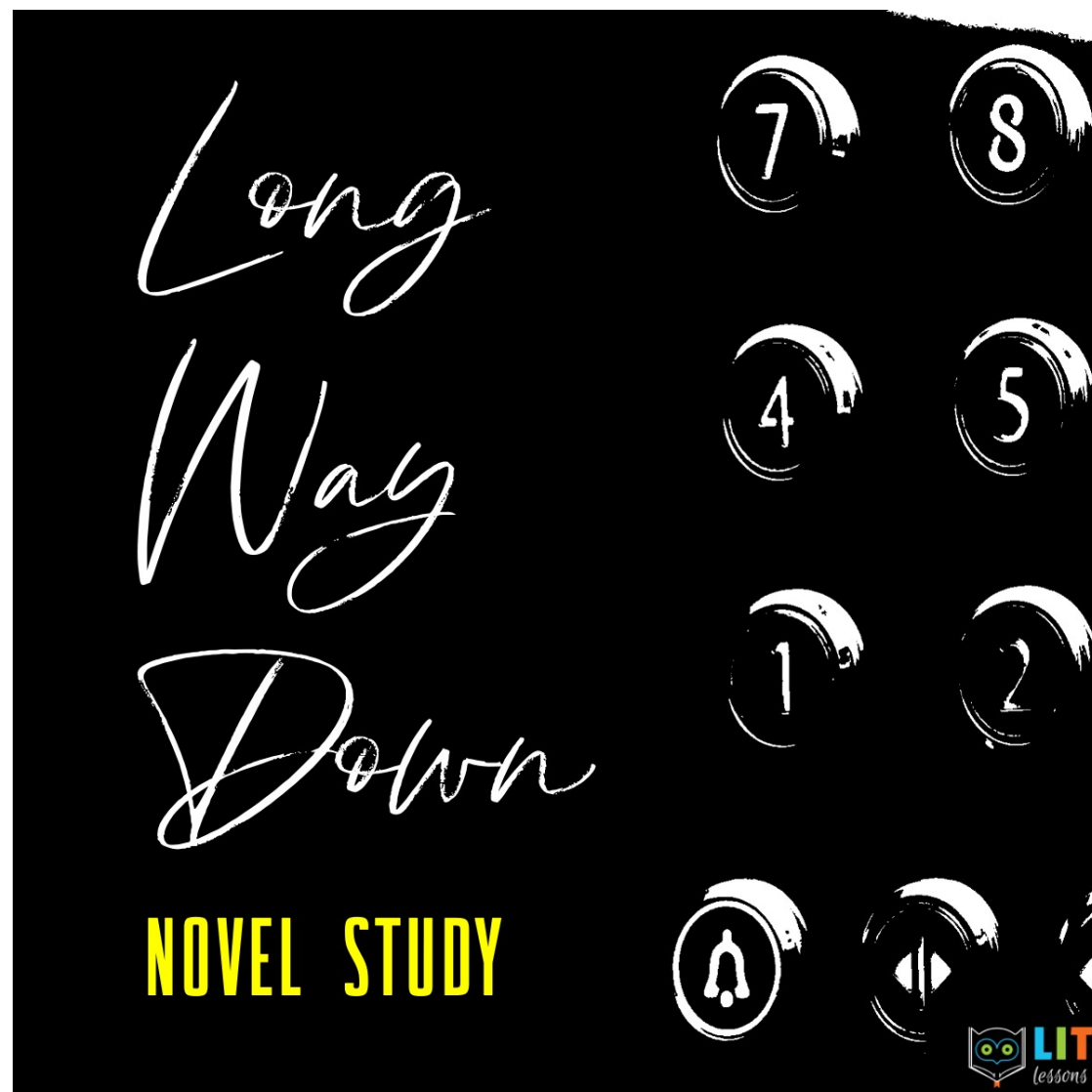
➤ Facilitate
Meaningful
Learning
Experiences

➤ Google Slides™
Links for Google
Drive™

➤ Make
Connection
Between Texts

BUNDLE & SAVE

This resource is part of a comprehensive unit on *Long Way Down*! Click the cover below to preview all the resources available.



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