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 **Prestwick House**
Activity Pack
Literature Made Fun!



Bad

BY JEAN FERRIS



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All references come from the Aerial Edition of BAD, copyright 1998 by Jean Ferris and published by Farrar Straus Giroux, 2001.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Pre-Reading**Questionnaire****Objective:** Preparing for a close reading of the text**Activity**

In the narrative you are about to read, Jean Ferris explores such issues as teen pregnancy, parental responsibility, juvenile crime and incarceration, bulimia, battered women's syndrome, racism, and drug and alcohol abuse. Through it all, her tone is non-judgmental. It is up to readers to bring their own thoughts and opinions to bear on the subject matter. To that end, contemplate and answer the following questions:

1. How do you think juvenile offenders should be treated?
2. What do you think it is like to be incarcerated?
3. If your parents say, "You live in my house; you must live by my rules," can you disregard those rules and still expect them to bail you out?
4. Where does parental responsibility end?
5. Under what circumstances do you blame someone else for your own actions?
6. What experiences have you had with peer pressure?
7. When do you think it is acceptable to use violence to solve conflict?
8. In what ways does your environment contribute to your personality?
9. How do you manage your anger?
10. Describe your best friend. In what ways are you alike; how are you different? Why are you friends?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters One—Five**Art****Objective:** Creating a wanted poster**Activity**

Ray, Pam, and Sonny convince Dallas to rob the Jiffy-Spot at gunpoint. Then, when the security guard across the street walks in, they take off. Dallas remains silent about their involvement in the crime. Imagine, however, that Dallas runs away with them, and that the security guard and the clerk report what they have seen to the police. The police are now looking for all four of the young offenders.

In teams, create a wanted poster for Dallas, Pam, Sonny, and Ray. Include the following:

- the name, date of birth, and home address of each character
- a complete physical description of each character
- an illustration, or photograph to represent each character
- a list of the crimes each is wanted for
- where each was last seen
- possible whereabouts

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters Eleven—Fifteen**Letter****Objective:** Writing an effective letter**Activity**

Dallas has been at the Girl's Rehabilitation Center for three months. She has not once written to her father and when he visits her, it is awkward between them. Nevertheless, he asks her if she wants him to visit again. Feeling that he is uncomfortable, she asks him why he would want to, and he responds, "I'm your father." (Pg. 96) Dallas, of course, feels hurt by his answer. Mr. Carpenter does not understand what she wants from him, which is for him to tell her that he loves her. Thus, he simply tells her to take care of herself, and he leaves. Once again, they fail to communicate what they really mean.

Because Ferris has employed the first-person point of view in *BAD*, you know Dallas's most intimate thoughts. Imagine you are Dallas, and you finally want to share some of those thoughts with your father. Where do you begin? What words do you use to communicate your loneliness, your frustration, your resentment, and your love?

Write a letter to Mr. Carpenter from Dallas. Include the following:

- a summary of events since your arrival at GRC
- a persuasive paragraph
- an argumentative paragraph

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters Eleven—Fifteen**Introducing a Character**

Objective: Creating a character that fits in the text
 Understanding and implementing characterization

Activity

Girls come and go from the Girls' Rehabilitation Center. While some of them have committed serious crimes with deadly weapons, others have committed petty crimes just to get off the street. Although some of the girls do their time and move on, others make trouble and are sent to camp. Through it all, Shatasia and Dallas look on with interest while trying to stay out of the commotion.

Invent a new character for Dallas and Shatasia to discuss. Include the following:

- a complete physical description—refer to the text to see how Ferris employs character description
- a physical representation—photograph, illustration, etc.
- the details of her incarceration—what crime she committed and how long she will be at GRC
- her history and background—where she comes from and her type of home life
- her name

Once you are comfortable with the character you have created, decide what section she will appear and write a scene introducing her into the book.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chapters Twenty-one—Twenty-four**Writing****Objective:** Writing a persuasive proposal**Activity**

The Girls' Rehabilitation Center appears to be a public institution funded by the state. Imagine the GRC is in dire financial straits. You must appear before a state board to appeal for funds. Divide into the following groups:

- parents who have had or have a daughter at GRC
- current and former inmates of GRC
- current and former employees at GRC
- citizens in the community

Each group is responsible for writing a proposal to increase the funding for the Girls' Rehabilitation Center. Each group will approach the proposal from its unique point of view.

Test your proposal for the following three crucial elements:

- **Credibility**—The board must believe you in order for you to convince them to give GRC more money.
- **Emotional appeal**—The board must be moved by what they hear if they are to act on your behalf.
- **Logic**—The board requires specific, well organized facts to accept your appeal as logical.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Wrap Up

Crossword Puzzle

Objective: Performing a crossword puzzle

Activity

Dallas concludes early on that boredom is the reason prisoners “ended up writing books that made no sense or spent hours on bodybuilding, or just got meaner and crazier.” (Pg. 16) Prior to her own confinement, she sought excitement in committing petty crimes and found companionship in pseudo friends. Upon settling in at the Girls’ Rehabilitation Center, however, Dallas discovers reading as a way to pass the time and take her mind off her troubles. At one point, she even refers to playing the game Clue as “good mental exercise.” (Pg. 99) She learns that mentally immersing yourself in something can relieve stress.

Regularly immersing yourself in activities that stimulate your brain has even more benefits. It can advance you academically and intellectually, if you apply yourself. Crossword puzzles are one such activity. Immerse yourself in solving the character crossword below.