

ARISE BIG KIDS BOOK OF LIFE'S LESSONS: GRADES 4/5 - VOLUME 1

INSTRUCTOR'S MANUAL

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THE DANGERS OF GUNS

Objective:

Students will examine the dangers of guns and consequences for their improper use.

Materials:

Activity Sheets, (if you purchased the Guns video, use it with this lesson)

Family Recap:

In a group discussion, go over Family Activity Sheets from the last meeting. Encourage students to share and acknowledge participants for their contributions.

Background Information:

Explain many innocent people are hurt or killed by guns because parents leave them lying around the house. Why do these accidents happen? Sometimes it is because the people who own guns don't know how to use them correctly. Other times it is because children find the guns adults leave lying around the house. There are two important safety steps to make sure we are safe from guns in our households:

1. It is important for adults to lock guns safely away from children.
2. Parents who own guns should take a gun-safety class to learn how to use and store them the right way.

Ask them why people use guns. Together, create a list on the board or a large sheet of paper where all can see. Sample responses might be:

1. To settle an argument
2. To hurt someone
3. For protection
4. To commit a crime
5. To catch a criminal



Ask the class: "Who should be allowed to use guns?" Answers include police officers, soldiers, hunters, and adults who take gun-safety classes. Explain all of these people have received special training on how to use guns. Soldiers go to boot camp to learn how to use weapons and police officers get schooling in the police academy. Hunters take safety courses.

Go over the Big Kids gun motto:

SEE A GUN, DIAL 911!

Activity:

If you purchased it, watch the Guns video. After they have viewed it, ask the following questions. Give them a few minutes to discuss each one and any other part of the video they need to talk about.



1. How did the video make you feel?
2. Do you think there would have been a way to prevent the boy from shooting his sister?
3. Was the gun safely stored?
4. How could the gun have been kept safe?
5. What do you think is the most important thing to learn from the video?

Ask them if they know what “shy” means. Allow a few responses. Then, ask them what they think the term **gun-shy** means. Explain to be gun-shy means to stay away from guns. Children are gun-shy because they know guns are harmful.

Read All About It:

Read Gun Shy (page 5) with students. Allow them to practice in small groups and present to the whole class.

Ask the students to tell you the main points of the poem. List them on the board or a large sheet of paper where all can see.

Math Connection:

Write the numbers 10 and 100 on the board or a large sheet of paper where all can see. Explain 10 is the number of children killed every day by guns, and 100 is the number of youngsters seriously injured by guns. Guns are not toys; they are dangerous weapons that end lives. Even when someone is not killed by a gunshot, he can be wounded for life.

Ask members of the class to figure out how many people are killed and injured by guns each week, month, and year. Compare their findings with the number of children in their class and school.

For example, 7 days a week multiplied by 10 deaths a day equals 70. This means if there are 35 members in the class, twice that number will die each day as a result of gun accidents.

Writing Connection:

Explain to students gun experts know how to use guns safely. The best way to find out more information about gun safety is to write to the police asking for a representative to come and speak to the class.

Discuss with the group today’s activity is writing a letter to the police department asking for more information and a speaker. The Letter to the Police Activity Sheet (page 6) will help them set up the letter. They will fill in the information and copy it over on notebook paper. Their teacher can mail the letters to the police department.

Activity:

As a group, go over the information on the Gun Safety Activity Sheet (page 7). Give learners a chance to read out loud. After reading, ask the following question in a group discussion:

1. What should neighborhoods do to prevent gun violence in their streets? Brainstorm some answers with the class. Possibilities are: have a neighborhood crime watch, hire a policeman to ride up and down the streets, hire security guards for the neighborhood.

Math Connection:

If possessing a gun during a crime will get an individual 10 years in jail, how many hours would that be? How many minutes? What about 20 years in jail? How many hours would that be? How many minutes?

Dramatic Play:

Ask youngsters to turn to the Comic Activity Sheet (page 8). Have students role-play the comic strip, write sentences about it (if there is no writing on the comic), read it out loud to the class, and color it.

Puzzle Page:

Have students complete the Beware! Guns! Activity Sheet (page 9).

Family Connection:

Turn to the Guns Family Activity Sheet (page 10). Instruct children on how to complete it. Explain they can do it at home with an adult and return it to their next class.

Tips for the Day:

1. Say NO to guns.
2. Only police officers and other trained adults should handle guns.
3. Parents must keep guns locked away out of children’s reach.
4. If you see a gun, dial 911.
5. Guns are dangerous!



GUN-SHY

You're never safe with guns around,
A careless move can put you in the ground;
The worms will chew and eat your fat,
And that's the end of that and that!

Beware of guns, they can do you in,
Run as fast as you can before trouble begins.
Some silly guy, just to show he's brave,
Pulls the trigger and you end up in the grave!

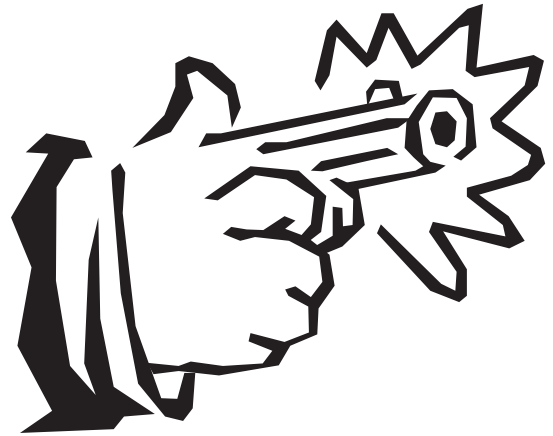
At first sights of a gun,
My advice to you —
Do the four-minute mile
In 3.52.

No sports, no dancing,
No arms, legs, or eyes;
When the trigger is pulled,
Somebody dies.

Why don't movie actresses and actors
Get black and blue?
They're made of skin and bones
Just like me and you.

If you see a gun you'd like to handle,
Think of graveyards, black cats, parents lighting candles;
Run...escape...be the lucky one,
Stick your finger on the phone, Dial 911!

If you see a playmate
Holding a gun,
Turn on your heel
And start to run!



LETTER TO THE POLICE

Fill in the information you need in your letter. Then, copy it neatly on notebook paper and give it to your teacher to mail to the police department.

Today's Date: _____

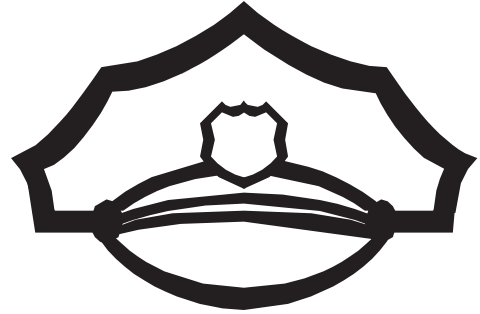
Your Name: _____

Name of School: _____

School Address: _____

School Phone #: _____

Police Department
City of: : _____



Dear Officer,

(Write what you want to say on the lines below).

Yours truly,

GUN SAFETY

Guns kill 10 children and injure 100 more every day.

Parents who have guns for protecting the house are sometimes careless and leave them in unlocked drawers where young children are tempted to play with them. This is how accidents happen. Think about how you would feel if your best friend was accidentally killed by a gunshot.

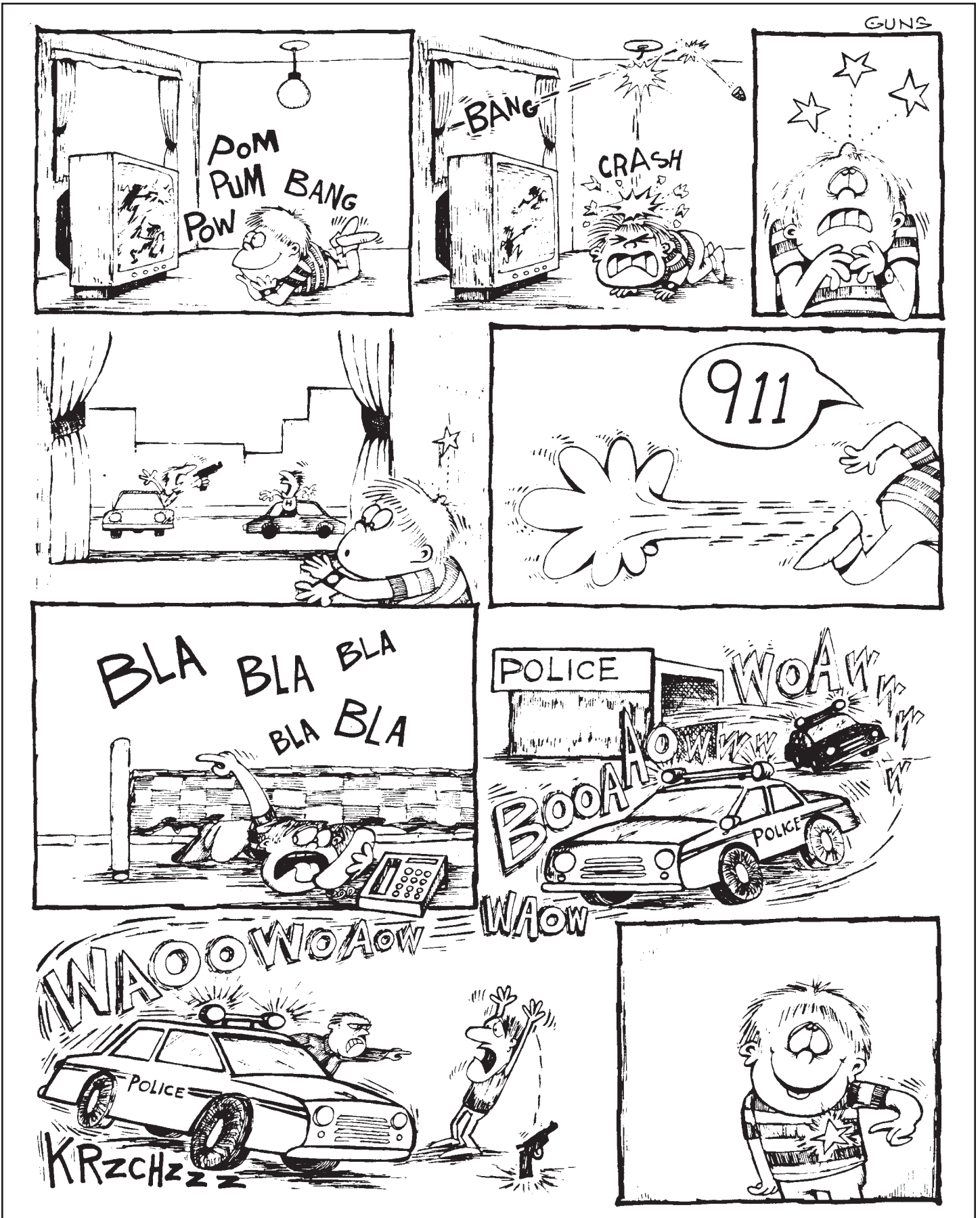
Gun locks can be placed on guns to keep the gun from firing if it gets in the hands of a young child.

If a child finds a gun outdoors, he should never pick it up or touch it. He should first dial 911. Then, tell a police officer or trusted adult where the weapon is located.

In many cities, drive-by shootings have caused unnecessary deaths. Innocent children get caught in the line of fire and die. In many areas, children are not allowed to play out in the street or inside near a window because of stray bullets.

In Miami, the mayor passed a strong law to help deter individuals from using guns. The 10/20/Life law provides that offenders who possess a gun during certain crimes serve mandatory sentences of 10 years in prison; offenders who fire a weapon during a crime will serve a mandatory 20 years; and those who injure victims with gunfire, whether the injuries are fatal or not, serve 25 years to life. The new law went into effect on July 1, 1999.





BEWARE! GUNS!

Use the words at the bottom of the page to fill in the blank spaces and complete each statement.

If you see a **G** _ _ you should tell

an _ _ **U** _ _ or call 911.

Over a _ _ **N** _ _ _ _ children are

S _ _ _ each day by the

_ **A** _ _ _ _ use of guns.

Police _ _ **F** _ _ _ _ carry guns for

_ _ _ _ **E** _ _ _ _ but they are

properly trained how to use **T** _ _ _ .

Y _ _ would never, ever touch a gun or rifle.



Word Bank

PROTECTION

ADULT

THEM

GUN

CARELESS

HUNDRED

SHOT

OFFICERS

YOU

THE DANGERS OF GUNS

Family Activity

Dear Parents:

Today, we talked about guns in our lesson. We discussed the large numbers of gun accidents and senseless killings, including drive-by shootings and innocent children shot while playing with guns. We talked about gun safety. Our assignment tonight is to understand guns are deadly. Many people watch television programs that have guns in them and forget TV is not reality. Our assignment is to look through the television program guide and find one show where people use guns, watch the show together, and fill out the observation chart below.

1. Name of program _____
2. Day _____ Time _____ Channel _____
3. Describe what led to the shooting _____

Discuss with your family a peaceful way of solving this problem without resorting to violence. Describe what you could do. Use the other side of this paper if necessary.

Please help your child finish this family activity and return it with your signature to the next class.

Parent's Signature

Date

DISCUSS, COMPROMISE, MEDIATE

Read each of the following situations. Explain how each could be handled using the method asked for.

1. Shirley and Luisa used to be friends. Then, Luisa heard from some other friends that Shirley said she was a liar. Now Luisa hates Shirley. *How could they **discuss** this situation so they could be friends again?*
2. Mark and Shawn both want to be the class president. They know only one of them can win and, even though they are good friends, they are beginning to fight a lot because they are in competition. *How could they arrive at a **compromise**?*
3. Joe and Rashard are brothers. Joe is two years younger. Lately, Joe has been going through Rashard's things and wearing his clothes without permission. Rashard is furious and wants to beat up his brother. *Explain how this situation could be **mediated**.*