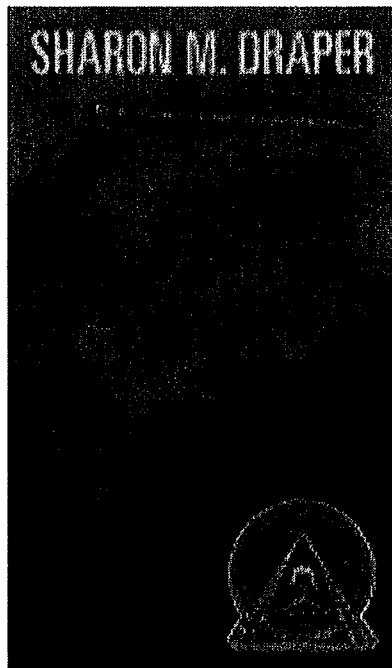


forged by fire

Name _____ Period _____



Key Ideas and Details

▣ **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.1** Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

▣ **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.2** Determine two or more central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to provide a complex analysis; provide an objective summary of the text.

▣ **CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.11-12.3** Analyze a complex set of ideas or sequence of events and explain how specific individuals, ideas, or events interact and develop over the course of the text.

Child Physical Abuse

According to the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS), in 2005, an estimated 3.3 million reports of alleged abuse and/or neglect involving approximately 6 million children were made to local child protective services (CPS) agencies across the country. An estimated 899,000 of these children were determined to be victims of abuse and/or neglect (USDHHS, 2007). Of these, 16.6 percent were determined to be victims of physical abuse. Further, an estimated 1,460 children died in 2005 as a result of child abuse and neglect (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2007). NCANDS data collection saw a large increase in child maltreatment numbers during its data collection in 2005 largely due to the inclusion of Alaska and Puerto Rico.

What Is Child Physical Abuse?

Defined as non-accidental trauma or physical injury caused by punching, beating, kicking, biting, burning or otherwise harming a child, physical abuse is the most visible form of child maltreatment.

Many times, physical abuse results from inappropriate or excessive physical discipline. A parent or caretaker in anger may be unaware of the magnitude of force with which he or she strikes the child.

Other factors that can contribute to child abuse include parents' immaturity, lack of parenting skills, poor childhood experiences and social isolation, as well as frequent crisis situations, drug or alcohol problems and domestic violence.

What Should You Look For?

While injuries can occur accidentally when a child is at play, physical abuse should be suspected if the explanations do not fit the injury or if a pattern of frequency is apparent. The presence of many injuries in various stages of healing makes it obvious that the injuries did not all occur as a result of one accident.

Physical indicators of abuse include bruises; lacerations; swollen areas; and marks on the child's face, head, back, chest, genital area, buttocks or thighs. Wounds like human bite marks, cigarette burns, broken bones, puncture marks or missing hair may indicate abuse.

A child's behavior might also signal that something is wrong. Victims of physical abuse may display withdrawn or aggressive behavioral extremes, complain of soreness or uncomfortable movement, wear clothing that is inappropriate for the weather, express discomfort with physical contact or become chronic runaways.

What Can You Do?

Discipline effectively. Remember that kids will be kids. Children can be loud, unruly and destructive. They will break things, interrupt telephone conversations, track mud through the house, not pick up their toys or clean their rooms, struggle over eating their vegetables or pester routinely. Children will

inevitably do things that may make their parents feel irritated, frustrated, disappointed and angry. Changing a child's behavior is not easy. However, children should not be disciplined through violence.

It is better to deny children privileges when they do something unacceptable, as well as reward them when they do something good. This teaches children that there are consequences for their actions.

Regain control. Child abuse is a symptom of having difficulty coping with stressful situations. If you feel you are losing control, ask someone to relieve you for a few minutes. Then try these tips:

Count to 10.

- Take deep breaths.
- Phone a friend.
- Look through a magazine or newspaper.
- Listen to music.
- Exercise.
- Take a walk (first make certain that children are not left without supervision).
- Take a bath.
- Write a letter.
- Sit down and relax.
- Lie down.

Get help. Support is available for families at risk of abuse through local child protection services agencies, community centers, churches, physicians, mental health facilities and schools.

Report, report, report. If you suspect child abuse is occurring, first report it to the local child protective services agency (often called "social services" or "human services") in your county or state. Professionals who work with children are required by law to report reasonable suspicion of abuse or neglect. Furthermore, in 20 states, citizens who suspect abuse or neglect are required to report it. "Reasonable suspicion" based on objective evidence, which could be firsthand observation or statements made by a parent or child, is all that is needed to report.

2 mothers charged with neglect for leaving children home alone

SALT LAKE CITY — Criminal charges have been filed against two women accused of leaving their small children at home unattended.

The cases against Mary A. Gutierrez, 23, and Bobbi Jo Schantz, 26, were filed in 3rd District Court within a week of each other.

"Unfortunately I don't know what it is, if it's the weather or what is going on, but we've had a strange surge in the last four weeks of multiple cases that are of a similar situation," Salt Lake County District Attorney Sim Gill said Wednesday.

Schantz, of Sandy, was charged July 16 with five counts of abuse or neglect of a disabled child, a third-degree felony, for allegedly leaving her 4-year-old son alone five times between April 1 and June 25 of this year.

According to the charging documents, the woman locked the child in a bedroom while she went to work because, she told police, "she does not have anyone to provide daycare and that she has to go to work."

The woman apparently told police that this has not happened more than five times. Law enforcement officers became aware of the situation after some neighbors heard the child crying.

"We had a mom who was getting ready in the morning, kissing the child goodbye, (would) give him some food and a porta potty in the room, lock him in the room and go to work," Gill said. "But for the cries of this little kid, we would have never known."

On July 18, Gutierrez was charged with four third-degree felony counts of abuse or neglect of a disabled child and a single count of tampering with a witness, a third-degree felony, for allegedly leaving her two children alone without supervision. Police responded to a call of child neglect back in July 2011 — when the children were 1 and 2 years old — and found the two children alone in an apartment.

Later, Gutierrez came home and said she "had to go to work for a minute," the charges state.

The woman later told police she had just gone to pick up her check and thought her sister was on the way over to watch her children.

On June 20 of this year, a police officer was informed of two unsupervised children and was unable to find their caregiver, prompting him to take them into protective custody, according to the charges. Gutierrez told police then that the children, now 3 and 4, were sleeping when she left the house and that she thought her father was coming to watch them.

At the end of that interview and after police officers left the room, Gutierrez is accused of calling her father and asking him to tell the police that she had called him and asked him to watch her children, but

that he had fallen asleep and failed to do so, the charges state. The woman's father told police that Gutierrez had called and asked him to lie about making child care arrangements.

In both cases, a pediatrician told police that the children involved were not able to safely care for themselves. Gill said the "disabled" element of the charges speak to the children's age.

"When a child is that young they are considered disabled in the sense that they can't take care of themselves," he said. "We do know children this age can't take care of themselves, they're going to need adult supervision and support, and if you don't take care of them you can be held criminally accountable and rightfully so."

The message we want to get out to people ... is to please contact social services because there are services available that will assist them with emergency childcare.

-Sim Gill

He said the charges carry a possible penalty of zero to five years in prison. But he said the main message is that there is help for those who are struggling with child care and that those in difficult situations should take advantage of available services.

"The message we want to get out to people ... is to please contact social services because there are services available that will assist them with emergency childcare and also work with any socioeconomic status so you can afford to take care of child care issues," Gill said. "Parents need to know that there are other options before they find themselves in similar situations."

Questions Chapters 1-4

- 1. Why do you think the author spends so much time describing Christmas for Gerald and Aunt Queen?**
- 2. What was one place in the book that you thought was foreshadowing what will happen later?**
- 3. So far, what do you think fire represents?**
- 4. List all the examples of colors that you've found so far. What characters get associated with which colors, and why do you think that is?**
- 5. What do you predict life will be like for Gerald once his mother returns? Explain why you think this.**

Chapters 4-6

- 1. What did Aunt Queen give Gerald to help ease his pain?**
- 2. Why do you think Gerald felt comfortable?**
- 3. What did Aunt Queen do to have strength?**
- 4. What did Gerald hear in the kitchen?**
- 5. What was Gerald's reaction when he saw the people in the kitchen?**
- 6. What surprise did Monique have in store for Gerald?**
- 7. Describe Jordan's characteristics.**
- 8. What was Gerald's reaction when Monique announced that Gerald had to come live with her?**
- 9. Describe Angel's characteristics.**
- 10. What happened to Aunt Queen?**

Chapters 7-9

- 1. How did Gerald and Angel get along?**
- 2. What was Jordan's reaction to Aunt Queen's illness?**
- 3. How did Monique act around Jordan?**
- 4. What was Gerald's reaction?**
- 5. Who comforted Gerald in his time of grief?**

6. How is life with Monique and Jordan different from living with Aunt Queen?

7. What was the atmosphere/mood of the apartment?

8. What was Jordan and Angel's secret?

9. What do you think will happen next?

Chapters 10-12

1. Why was Jordan angry when he found out that Angel's bed was broken?

2. How did Gerald feel about Angel sleeping in the same room?

3. What did Jordan do to Angel when they were alone?

4. What was Angel's reaction?

5. What was Gerald's reaction when he found out Jordan had been alone with

Angel?

6. What was Monique's reaction when Gerald suggested that Jordan was molesting

Angel?

7. Why did Gerald feel he needed to tell someone about Jordan?

8. Who did Gerald confide in?

9. What was his reaction?

10. What did Monique accuse Gerald and Angel?

Chapters 13-15

- 1. Who supported Gerald and Angel throughout the trial?**
- 2. What was Monique's reason for going to the trial?**
- 3. What color do the lawyer wear?**
- 4. What was Jordan's reaction towards Monique?**
- 5. What was the outcome of the trial?**
- 6. What did Angel enjoy doing? Why?**
- 7. What sport did Gerald play?**
- 8. How did Gerald feel about his friends?**
- 9. How did Gerald's friends feel about him?**
- 10. Gerald was beginning to feel peaceful until?**

Chapters 16-18

- 1. How old is Gerald now?**
- 2. What was Jordan's reaction to Gerald?**
- 3. What was Angel's reaction to Jordan's return?**
- 4. What was Monique's reaction to Jordan's return?**
- 5. Who came Gerald's game and made him feel uneasy?**
- 6. Who was Angel's friend she could talk to?**

7. Describe Angel's dance recital?

8. What seemed to help Angel through her depression?

9. How did Gerald feel when he came home and the lights were out?

10. What happened to Monique?

Chapters 19-21

1. How did Angel feel about Monique's accident?

2. Who was Monique concerned about in the hospital?

3. What was Jordan's reaction to Monique on the couch?

4. Who kept in touch with Gerald to help him?

5. Describe Monique's condition:

Chapters 22-24

1. Describe Robbie Washington's funeral?

2. Who replaced Robbie as captain of the basketball team?

3. How did dancing help Angel?

4. What was Jordan trying to do to Angel?

5. Was Jordan behaving?

6. What did Jordan do to Angel?

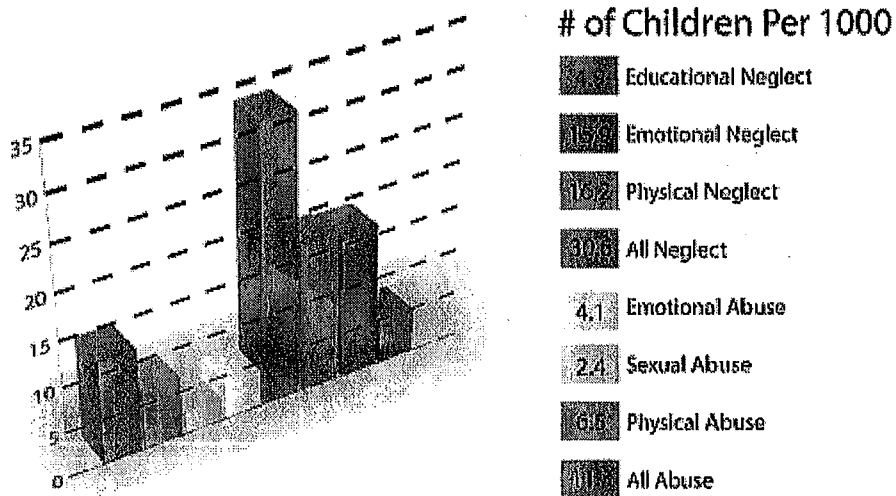
7. What was Gerald's reaction to the smoke?

8. What did Gerald find when he entered the apartment?

9. What familiar clicks did Gerald hear?

10. What did Monique ask Gerald and Angel?

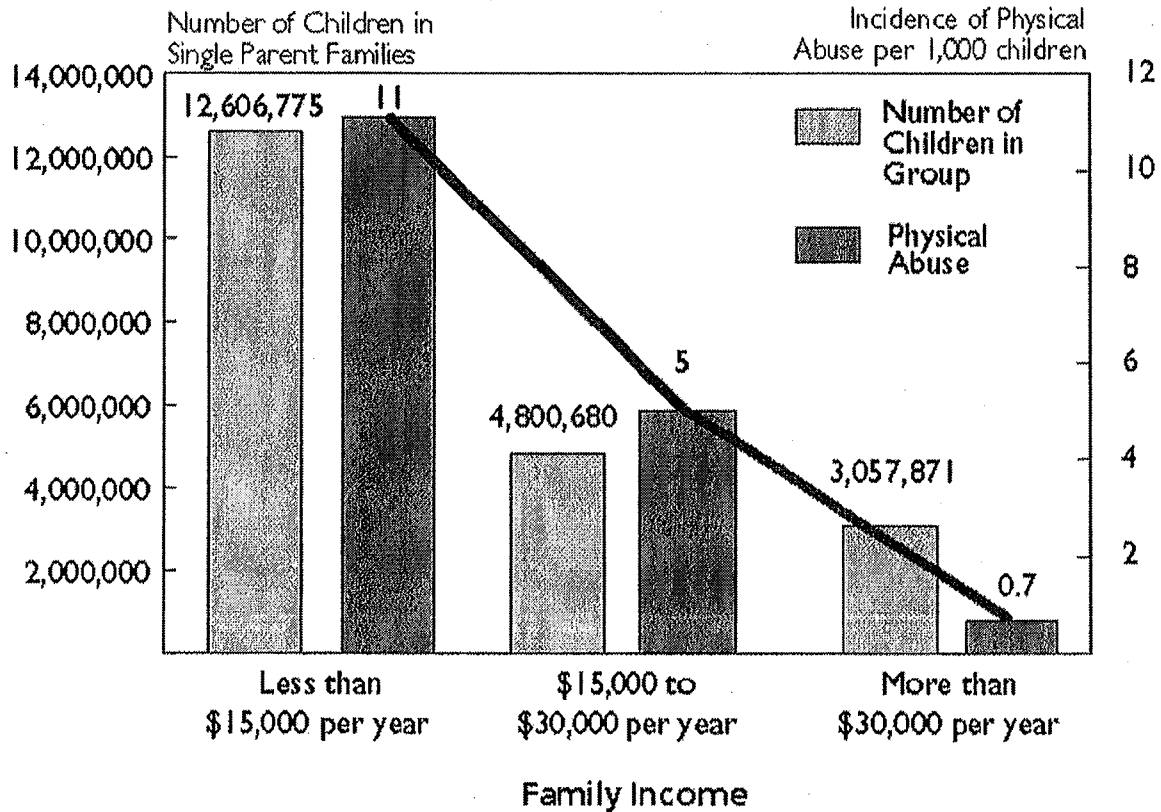
Analyze each artifact and draw connections to the information in the novel as they answer the corresponding questions.



National Incidence of Endangerment Standard
Maltreatment in the NIS-4 (2005-2006)

- 1. According to the graphic, what is the most reported incident of child endangerment?**
- 2. How many children per 1000 were victims of physical neglect in a similar fashion as Gerald in the novel?**
- 3. How many children per 1000 were victims of sexual abuse in a similar fashion as Angel in the novel?**

Relationships of Physical Abuse, Income, and Single Parent Family Structure



Sources: *The Third National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, September 1996; Current Population Survey.

1. According to the bar graph and trend line, what is the relationship between poverty and incidents of physical abuse?
2. What inferences can the reader make about the financial status of Gerald, Angel, and Monique and Monique's need for Jordan's financial assistance?

THE FACTS ON SEXUAL ABUSE

1 in 4 girls will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday.



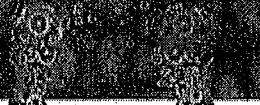
1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday.

50% of children are molested by people the family knows & trusts.



How You Can Prevent Sexual Abuse

Avoid one-on-one situations with an adult & child.



Watch for emotional or behavior signals.

Teach children what is "against the rules" for touching.



Report suspected abuse!



Photo: 2/afreem.com

1. Based upon the information on the poster above, what should Monique have been able to deduce about Jordan's intentions towards her daughter?
2. Based upon the evidence in the text, how could Monique have protected Angel from Jordan?

Forged by Fire

Analyze the title of the novel, *Forged by Fire*, and discuss how it is symbolic of the events and characters in the text. In a constructed response, discuss how the novel's title reflects the literal and symbolic nature of fire's role in the text as a purifying and bonding tool for Gerald and his family.

Forged by Fire
Final Book Project

Directions: Select and complete ONE activity from the list below. If you are working on a project that has a written component, it must be at least one page in length and use proper paragraph structure. Use no greater than a 12-point font and double-space.

<p>Artists: Create a well-constructed painting/drawing/poster of your interpretation of a character from the novel. Use quotes that describe physical/character traits that inspired your artwork. (Must have at least 4 quotations with page numbers)</p>	<p>Theme: Overcoming Obstacles: One of the themes of the novel focuses on the ability to overcome major problems/obstacles in his life. Using several text based examples, write a detailed response on the theme of the book</p>	<p>Newspaper Reporter: You are a reporter at the scene of the fire at Gerald's apartment at the end of the book. Write the story for your newspaper. (At least two paragraphs, seven sentences each)</p>	<p>Symbolism Expert: Write an essay on the importance of symbolism in <i>Forged By Fire</i> using examples from the text. Must be at least three paragraphs in length and follow the paragraph formula.</p>
<p>Letter Writer: Write a letter to one of the characters in the book explaining your feelings about the events in the story. Use specific examples of events from the story (Must be typed, at least 1 ½ pages, in length and written in proper paragraph format)</p>	<p>Musicians and Poets: Create a song, poem, or a piece of music that is your interpretation of either the novel. Record your music or perform/read your music/poem in class.</p>	<p>Brochure: Create a brochure to give to Gerald and Angel on domestic violence and child abuse. Include the resources/ people that are available to help them. The brochure should be creative, factual, and feature illustrations, charts, etc..</p>	<p>Music Playlist: Pretend that <i>Forged By Fire</i> books was made into a movie and you were asked to create the soundtrack to it. Make a soundtrack of songs that go with the flow of the movie version and explain the connection of why you chose to include each song (must have at least 5 songs on your playlist)</p>
<p>Substance Abuse: Another theme in the book is substance abuse. Describe how alcohol and drug dependency influence the lives of the characters in the book. Use text based examples.</p>	<p>Book Blog: Write a review of <i>Forged By Fire</i> on our book blog site. Include your review, connections, questions, and recommendations for future readers.</p>	<p>Movie Director: Act out or videotape yourself acting out a scene from the novel. OR create a trailer for a movie version of the novel.</p>	<p>Comic Strip: Create an original comic strip from one chapter in the book. (Must include evidence and text based examples)</p>

Final Project is due on: