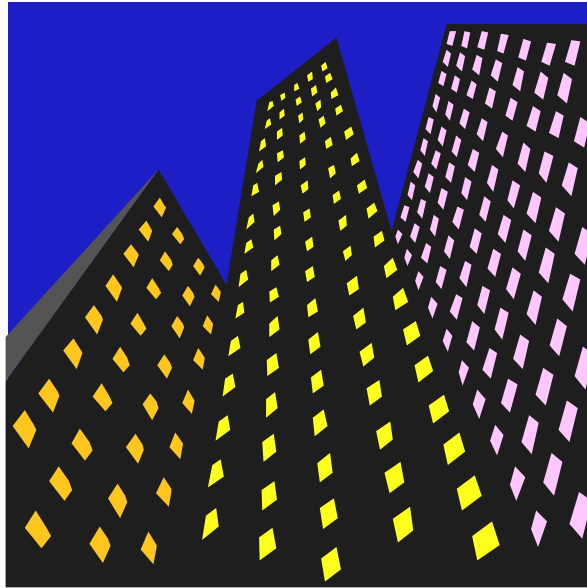


# LOST INNOCENCE



**CFE 3267V**

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OPEN CAPTIONED  
LANDMARK MEDIA  
1993  
Grade Levels: 9-13+  
21 minutes

## **DESCRIPTION**

Sobering drama explores the horrors of street life runaway teenagers face. John leaves home in anger to live on the streets. A streetwise kid steers him into drugs and prostitution, which slowly lead to his death. Stresses that life on the streets is not a fresh start but a dead end. Encourages troubled teens to talk to someone. NOTE: STRONGLY SUGGEST PREVIEW.

## **INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS**

- To show reasons some teenagers run away from home.
- To portray some dangers of life on the streets.
- To give alternatives to running away.

## **BEFORE SHOWING**

1. Preview the video to determine unfamiliar vocabulary and language concepts.
2. List reasons teenagers run away from home. Retain the list to discuss after showing the video.
3. Bring a backpack to class. Pack it with things needed by a runaway teenager. To assist an agency which deals with runaways, donate the backpack.

## **DURING SHOWING**

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.
2. Pause at the caption "Here today, gone tomorrow."
  - a. Why does John run away from home?
  - b. Why do other teenagers run away from home?
3. Pause at the caption "That's the chance you gotta take."
  - a. What is some advice the young man gives to John?
  - b. What are other people's attitudes about John when he is begging for change?

- c. Why can't John get a regular job?
- d. What is the only way John can get money?
- 4. Pause at the caption "[dripping sounds]."
  - a. How does John get money?
  - b. What is his initial reaction?
  - c. Why does he react that way?
- 5. Pause at the caption "My God."
  - a. What happens to John?
  - b. What should John have done instead of running away?
- 6. Stop at the end of the video.
  - a. How many teenagers run away every week?
  - b. What are some alternatives to running away?
  - c. Where can teenagers find help?

## **AFTER SHOWING**

### Discussion Items and Questions

1. Why do teenagers run away from home?
2. How do teenagers support themselves on the street? Why do many runaway teens turn to prostitution?
3. What usually happens to the teenagers on the street?
4. What kind of advice did the young man give to John?
5. What is meant by *chicken hawk* and *lunchtime suit*?
6. Why does John use drugs? Why does he continue to use more powerful and dangerous drugs, the longer he stays on the street?
7. Why do people on the street "...slip through the cracks and get lost"?
8. What were John's problems at home? How do they compare to his problems on the street?
9. Why are the descriptions of street life that the teens at the beginning of the video give very misleading?
10. Why can't John just get a job and leave the streets?

### Applications and Activities

1. Invite a counselor to discuss the reasons teenagers run away from home. Compare this with the list made in BEFORE SHOWING. Add to the list, if needed.
2. Organize a panel consisting of parents and teenagers to discuss common problems. Use a counselor or other professional as a moderator to explore solutions.
3. Publish a list of local agencies which provide services to teenagers.
  - a. Investigate the agencies which provide services to clients who are deaf or hard of hearing.
  - b. Include telephone numbers, TTY numbers, and costs, if any.
4. Explore dangers of living on the street, other than those seen in the video.
5. Use a familiar conflict resolution program to explore alternatives to running away.
6. Examine present statistics of the number of teenagers who run away every week. Include:
  - a. Those who return home
  - b. Those who are never heard from again
  - c. Those who are confirmed dead
  - d. Reasons for their deaths
7. Display statistics and articles from the newspaper concerning runaway teenagers.
8. Establish a peer mediation team to deal with teenagers' problems.
9. Role-play the following:
  - a. Talking a friend out of running away
  - b. Looking for a job, but not having a permanent address
  - c. Arguing with one's parents about rules
10. Research and write a newspaper article concerning the problems a homeless person faces every day.
11. Compose a theme exploring present attitudes about homeless people. Share in class.

12. List a teenager's daily needs and wants.
  - a. Calculate the cost of each item on the list.
  - b. Determine how these needs can be satisfied by a teenager living on the street.
  - c. Eliminate those things which are not affordable.
13. Identify the meaning of the slang expressions contained in the video. Translate into American Sign Language.
  - a. I'll get you stoned.
  - b. Get a life, you loser.
  - c. Forget this nickle and dime stuff.
  - d. You gotta play to stay.
  - e. I's a dead end.

### **WEBSITES**


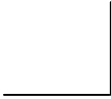
Explore the Internet to discover sites related to this topic. Check the CFV website for related information (<http://www.cfv.org>).

### **SUMMARY**

John, a teenaged boy, leaves home in anger after a confrontation with his parents about following rules. Other reasons teenagers run away include having been raped by a family member or having been physically abused.

Once John is on the street, he meets a streetwise young man who welcomes him into the street culture. Later, the young man gives John advice on people to avoid, the reason nobody will hire him, and a way to make cash. He tries to make John tough enough to survive on the street by supporting himself through prostitution. At first, John is reluctant, but then tries it.

Initially, John is physically ill after prostituting himself. Later, he appears to gain confidence in this way of life. It gives him money to support his drug habit. At the end, John leaves in a car with a man who offers him a drug. Later, the man brings back John's body, leaving it in an alley.



Present statistics indicate that 20 to 30 teenagers leave home every week to run on the streets. Alternatives to living on the street include talking to a friend, teacher, or school counselor or contacting an agency such as the Children's Aid Society, "because life on the streets is not a fresh start. It's a dead end."