

This extract is taken from the novel 'Subject Seven' by James A. Moore

In this extract from the opening of the novel Seven – the teenage result of a genetic experiment to create assassins - is in his cell thinking about his life.

Prelude

Five years ago

Subject Seven

THE QUIET OF THE compound was almost complete. Three in the morning was always a time of silence. Almost everyone had gone home, and even the few that were still working tended to keep to themselves and whisper when they spoke. There was something about Subject Seven that made them want to be quiet.

Down in his cage, Subject Seven lay curled in a tight ball, his body aching from the latest batch of tests.

His skin was growing back. He'd almost healed, and the pain had become manageable. That was good because he was finished with the compound, whether or not his keepers knew it.

Seven had learned something new, you see, something that changed everything about his world. He had learned about his Other.

He opened his eyes and listened carefully, though there was almost nothing to hear. The steady beeping of his heart monitor was the only constant in his world. They seldom spoke to him.

When they did, it was to ask him if something hurt, or if they were feeling particularly ambitious, they'd ask him to explain the pain. He bared his teeth and heard his pulse rate increase on the monitor. What does it feel like to have your skin peeled back, Seven? Does it hurt when we touch your exposed nerves with these electric probes?

The room was ten feet wide, ten feet long, and seven feet high. Three cameras watched him. He couldn't even take a piss without someone watching and recording every action.

The Other could, of course. The Other was given everything he wanted. When he was hungry, he ate; when he was bored, he watched television—and he had people to talk to who were nice and gentle and gave him a soft bed to sleep in. Just thinking about the Other made him angry. He hated the Other even more than he hated the ones who tortured him. The Other lived in a wonderful world, far above the compound where Seven was made to live.

That was about to change.

Complete the following tasks on lined paper.

1. List four things you learn from this extract about Subject Seven.
2. Subject Seven is treated very badly and is getting increasingly angry at the way he is treated. How has the writer shown this?
3. Write the opening of a story where the main character is being treated badly in dystopian style.

Statement: Make a statement which answers the question in brief.

Evidence: Quotation WITH Context AND Subject Terminology. You should embed your evidence into a sentence which makes sense.

This makes the reader visualise...

This means... This makes us think of/ suggests/ implies...

The writer wants us to know/ understand that... because...

The word/ phrase/ image of '_____' has connotations of

By using the word '_____' the writer has suggested that... because

This helps create a dystopian atmosphere because...

This could also suggest/ implies/ connote...

The writer wants the reader to understand that...

The writer has included the word/ phrase '_____' because...

Example paragraph:

The writer describes how Subject Seven feels isolated. He describes how the workers in the compound 'seldom spoke to him.' This implies he is isolated because no one talks to him or involves him in conversation. The adverb 'seldom' suggests that it is very rare that he is communicated with which is a very poor way of treating him because he is unable to go and find people to talk to as he is locked up. The writer wants the reader to understand that part of Subject Seven's abuse is that he is cut off from human engagement and ignored.