

Two Badges: The Lives of Mona Ruiz

Mona Ruiz

Curriculum Guide by Kristin Lamphier, El Modena High School

Pgs. 11-66

Name:

26 points

Directions: Do your own work - no working with a partner. Remember to pay attention to proper capitalization and punctuation.

1. Describe Mona's relationship with her father in two-three sentences.
2. What did Mr. Sandoval try to teach Mona about gangs and their members?
3. What did he try to teach Mona about police officers?
4. Describe Mona's home life when she was a child in two-three sentences.
5. When Mona witnessed her cousin, Jesse, being patched up by her parents, what opinion was starting to form about the 'cool' factor of gang life?
6. Mona's father was in a work accident. How did that affect her education? Describe her experiences at Smedley Intermediate School.
7. How did the F-Troop start and how did it evolve?
8. Who were Marty and Potato? What happened to them?
9. When did Mona's childhood end?
10. After reading pages 39-42, recount Mona's beginning to Valley High School. Who is Lydia and what purpose did she serve to Mona?
11. What notoriety did Mona experience after getting in a fight?
12. What happened between Lydia and her mother?
13. Who is Chata and what influence did she have on Mona?

Pgs. 67-122

24 Points

1. Describe the main reason Mona never does drugs in two-three sentences.
2. What had become almost a monthly occurrence at Valley High School? What was the cause?
3. What effect did the increased population in Santa Ana have on the gangs and the drug business? What information did you receive in the Ted Talk that can apply here?
4. Guns, at one time, were a rare sight on the streets. Why did they become more prevalent?
5. How did Gordo encourage Mona to follow her dream of becoming a police officer?
6. Mona told her mother she was not in a gang. How did Mona persuade herself she wasn't in a gang?
7. Describe Mona's first job at the police department. What was her father's reaction?

8. How was Mona dressed for her first day of work? What is the problem with her fashion choice?
9. What is the symbolism behind Mona and her father working on the Chevy Malibu together?
10. What setback did Mona face her senior year at Valley High?
11. In November 1979, Mona got a full-time job with SAPD. Describe the conflicts that arise—for herself and the gang—when Mona puts on a uniform.
12. Trace the evolution of the relationship between Mona and Officers Brown and Osuna.

Pgs. 123-188
26 points

1. Describe Frank Ruiz and Mona's first encounter with him in three-four sentences.
2. What situation is Mona describing when she says, "In my head, I was telling myself to ditch the whole thing, walk away while it was easy."
3. Describe Sad Girl. What surprising piece of information did Mona share with the readers?
4. After reading page 135, describe how Frank manipulates Mona and Sad Girl.
5. What battle started between Officer Osuna and Frank?

6. On pages 145-146, Frank reacted violently to a comment Mona made about school. What pieces of advice came flooding back to her?
7. After Oso died, how did her feelings change about gang life? See page 155.
8. Describe Officer Brown's reaction when he finds out Mona is pregnant.
9. Mr. Sandoval called Frank a bum, and said Mona would be a fool to let him mess up her life. In what ways was that statement proved to be true? See page 166.
10. What was Frank's reaction when Mona said she would keep working and going to school? Be detailed in your answer. See page 170.
11. Re-read pages 176-179 in order to trace the cycle of abuse in Frank and Mona's relationship. What typical abuser / victim behaviors do you recognize?
12. As Frank's drug use escalates, he continues to insist that he's providing for the family. What is the reality?
13. Re-read pages 186-188 in order to describe the cruel thing Frank did, that "hurt more than any beating" he had ever given Mona.

Pgs. 189-235

20 Points

1. How has Mona's relationship with her mother-in-law changed? What idea does she plant in Mona's head?
2. Describe the reaction of the responding officers at the beginning of Chapter 10 when Mona calls the police because Frank was beating her.
3. What stopped Mona from stabbing Frank when she had the chance?
4. Describe the scene when Officers Brown and Osuna visit Mona. What did she hope would happen? See page 203.
5. Mona saw a television ad for a women's shelter. What did she do next?
6. Mona's doctor gave her a reality check. What did he say to her that finally got her serious about leaving Frank?

7. Re-read page 209 to the end of the chapter and then describe the scene where Mona finally made her break.
8. Mona had to complete a lot of paperwork to get her and Frankie on the right path. What did she have to do? See page 220.
9. Frank made a confession to Mona. Why was this an important revelation for her?
10. What favor did Maryann do for Mona? How did this start Mona on a better path? See pages 229-235.

Pgs. 236-end of novel
20 points

Complete ten questions in total - the questions with an * (7 of them) are required; choose three additional questions.

1. In January 1986, things were improving for Mona. How so? Using evidence from the text, please describe in two-three sentences.
2. How did Mona react when she started going to church with Roni?
3. Why does Frank keep showing up at Mona's door? Review pages 242-243.
- *4. How did Cpl. Lucas help Mona with Frank? What did he do that no other cop had done?
5. On pg. 247, what steps was Mona going to take to set her sights higher?
6. Who is Sal? On pg. 251, he gives Mona advice on being a street cop. What is that advice?
7. Officer Osuna sticks by Mona and helps her get ready for the police academy. On page 253, what memories resurface about the first time he pointed Mona in the right direction?
- *8. Re-read pages 257-260 and summarize what happens when the police officers respond to Mona's 911 call. What is Mona's comment at the end of the incident when Frank was arrested?
9. Describe the scene when Chief Paul Walters pinned the badge on Mona's uniform.
- *10. Who is The Commander? What was Mona's take away after her time with him?
11. What are some of the rumors surrounding Mona being a police officer? See page 275.

- *12. Who is Sonny Coberly? How was Mona's time with Sonny different than her time with The Commander? How did Sonny's acceptance of her help her reputation in the department?
- *13. Who is Rabbit? What connection did Mona and Rabbit have?
- *14. How did the directed patrol concept help Mona when she was in her police car driving around and responding to calls?
- 15. Who is Blum? How did he help Mona?
- *16. In the summer of 1996, Mona took steps to help Frankie follow the right path. What were those steps and what was the result?

Web Quest – Honors
18 Points

Working by yourself, answer the following questions about the autobiography of Mona Ruiz. These answers should be a few complete sentences in length!

1. Who is Mona Ruiz? Write three-four sentences about her.
2. What are the steps to becoming a police officer in Santa Ana?
3. Is gang affiliation a roadblock to working in law enforcement? Why or why not?
4. What are the characteristics of street gangs?
5. Why do people join gangs?
6. How do people leave gangs if they want to?
7. What are five different gangs in Orange County? What is the focus of their criminal enterprise?
8. How has street gang crime evolved over time?
9. Based on your initial impression, is Mona an outlier or an outcast? Why?

Group Research
15 points

In groups of 2-3 (or by yourself) research the following questions as they pertain to our study of Two Badges. Focus your research to California, because laws vary state to state.

1. What is PCP? What are the effects on the body? Is it still popular today?
2. What is heroin? What are its effects on the body and mind? Why has heroin made a strong comeback after falling away from widespread use? What is the difference between black tar heroin and white heroin? Is injection with a syringe filled with the drug the only way to use it?
3. If someone wants to get clean of heroin, why is it so difficult to get off of it? What is the standard practice to quit an addiction to heroin?
4. Trace the evolution of domestic violence laws in California in the 1970s-present.
5. What are the current crime statistics for domestic violence? Has the reporting of the crime increased? Has the stigma decreased?
6. If found guilty of domestic violence, what is the punishment?
7. What prevents people from reporting domestic violence?