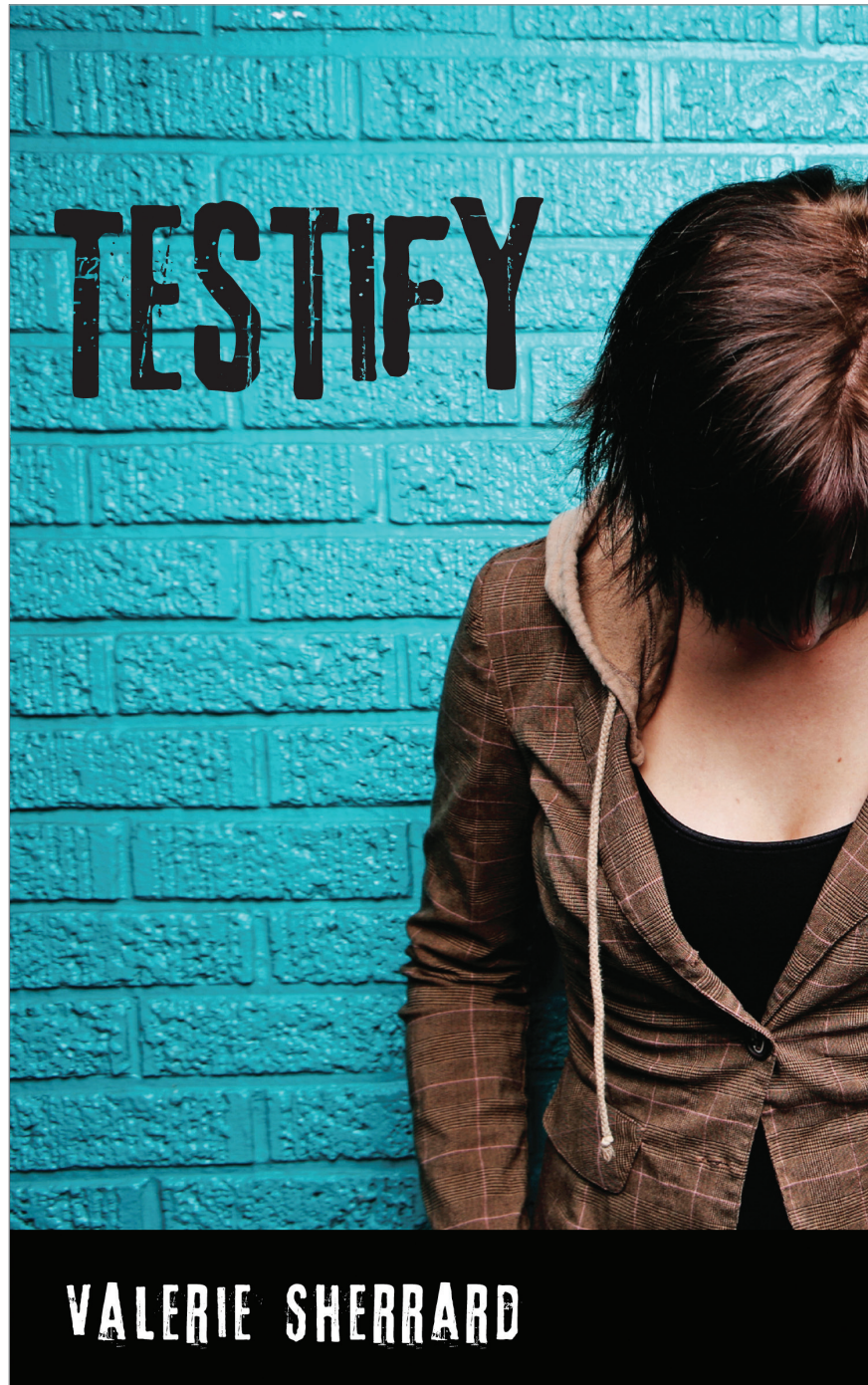


# TEACHER'S GUIDE

Grades 9-up, Guided Reading Level: Z+



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# I INTRODUCTION

## About the Book

A compelling legal thriller novel for young adults, *Testify* recounts the escalating havoc played out in the life of a high school student who chose to help her best friend by lying on her behalf in court.

## Audience

*Testify* is suitable for a range of young adolescent readers, offering a highly accessible text with high-interest content. It's appropriate for a broad range of reading skill levels.

## Structure of this Teacher Resource Guide

This resource guide follows the areas of language learning delineated by the Ontario Curriculum. The questions, expectations and evaluation rubrics are designed with Oral Language, Reading, Writing, and Media Literacy instruction in mind, with specific expectations designed to address Knowledge and Understanding, Inquiry, Communication, and Application skills. However, within this framework, the expectations are not grade-level specific, and can be adapted to suit the curricular needs of a range of middle school or high school grade levels and course types.

### General information and Reference

- Chapter Summaries are provided for easy teacher or student reference.

### Knowledge and Understanding/Reading for Meaning

- Multiple Choice questions are provided for quick assessment of text comprehension

### Analytical/Critical literacy

- Thinking Questions are designed to elicit critical responses that draw upon connections within the text, and to the insights and experiences that students bring to the text, as readers.

### Oral Language

- In addition to thematic discussions throughout the reading of *Testify*, students consolidate their critical analysis of character culpability, and present their ideas in the form of an oral debate.

### Writing and Text Forms

- Students are asked to explore and apply the text forms of a persuasive essay and of a personal letter in two written assignment options included with this guide.

### Media Literacy

- Students are asked to explore and evaluate the use of social media devices in *Testify* and in their own experience, and to create a public service announcement expressing a message about healthy and appropriate use of these technologies.

## Exploring the themes of *Testify*

- Peer Influence

*Testify* explores the complexity of peer relationships among teen girls. There is clear evidence of the perils of allowing oneself to be manipulated by a wrong-headed and profoundly selfish friend, as well as of the devastation of group-versus-individual peer dynamics. However, *Testify* does not stop at this dismissive characterization of adolescent peer influence. The main character, Shana, experiences many situations in which adult support is limited or unavailable. Peer relationships, both positive and destructive, are ultimately more accessible to her and more emotionally involved than are her relationships with adults and authority figures. This complex presentation of adolescent social dynamics will engender a rich discussion among students who may be experiencing similar tensions in their own social networks.

- Youth and the Law

Students have numerous opportunities, throughout reading *Testify* and considering the questions and assignment prompts, to explore the presentation of criminal justice, court proceedings, police/community relationships, and specifically, the crime of perjury, and to compare it with the laws and regulations of their own jurisdictions. You may wish to have a police officer visit and offer a perspective on the relationship between youth and the criminal justice system in your community, comparing Shana's experience with experiences typical to actual young people.

- Sexual Molestation

This theme is explored in *Testify*, not for its own sake, but rather for the purpose of demonstrating the manipulative and deceitful character of Carrie. Shana shows a degree of awareness that sexual molestation is a pervasive problem in our society — when Hayley has a hostile reaction to Carrie, Shana suspects that she too may have had a painful experience of sexual molestation. Also, Shana's impulse to believe Carrie's story initially could be reflective of her understanding that individuals claiming to have been molested are vastly likely to be telling the truth. It may be very important for your students to hear acknowledgement that sexual molestation is a tragically common occurrence, and that it is far more common than the occurrence of false claims in court. For more information on this topic, you may consider the resources available at [stopitnow.org](http://stopitnow.org).

## II CHAPTER SUMMARIES

1. Shana is in court, on the witness stand. She testifies to having seen Joe Kelward in the act of sexually abusing his step-daughter, Shana's best friend Carrie. After the trial, the two girls share lunch, and express relief that the harrowing experience of the trial is now over. Shana feels proud of having stepped up to help her friend prosecute her molester, but reveals that, because she had not in fact personally seen the acts take place, her entire testimony was a lie.
2. Shana recounts her friendship with Carrie, a fun-loving, life-of-the-party sort of girl who has supported Shana through difficult times and shared many experiences with her. Following the trial, Shana spends the night at Carrie's house, and the two share their hopes and fears about the outcome of the trial.
3. Shana skips school in order to return to the courthouse with Carrie. Shana's truancy is discovered by her parents, however, and results in Shana getting grounded. Later, Carrie calls, and expresses the need for company as she copes with the stress of the yet-unresolved trial. With Shana unavailable, Carrie considers inviting their mutual friend, Krysti.
4. The following day, Shana's group of friends sits at their lunch table, anxiously waiting to hear Carrie's report on the outcome of the trial. Carrie then joins them, announcing with relief that her stepfather has been found guilty. The group celebrates this news, with the exception of Hayley, who makes an uncharacteristically rude and insensitive remark. Carrie leaves the group, crying, while Krysti follows in attempt to comfort her. Shana remains with Hayley, mystified by her behaviour, while Hayley refuses to elaborate, and appears to be upset. Shana is tremendously relieved to hear from Carrie later that day. Her best friend is back to her old self (planning a party), and has included Hayley on the guest list.
5. Shana is grounded, so the party becomes a clandestine party at Shana's house. Shana's friends sneak in, and they begin watching YouTube videos in Shana's room. They are discovered by Shana's mom, but she isn't angry, as they imagined she might be. Rather, she is aware of their presence, and has prepared snacks for the girls to enjoy in the TV room. Carrie is weeping, and embraces all her friends, thanking them for their support throughout her legal process.
6. Hayley once again makes a sarcastic remark about Carrie's response to the trial. The group is shocked, but Carrie is surprisingly sympathetic. Carrie suggests that Hayley's prickly demeanour is likely the result of a secret underlying problem that she has begun to observe in Hayley — kleptomania. Hayley furiously denies that she has ever stolen anything, but when Carrie and other group members enumerate recently missing, valuable objects, it is suggested that Hayley's pockets and bags be searched. Sure enough, a valuable brooch belonging to Shana is found in Hayley's cell phone pocket. Hayley accuses Carrie of having set her up and planted the items, but the group remains suspicious, so Hayley leaves.
7. At Hayley's angry departure, Carrie begins to cry — lamenting that Hayley now hates the whole group of friends, and that she should have confronted Hayley privately. Carrie resolves to go and talk with Hayley after she has had time to cool off. Shana is confused about the scene she has just witnessed, unable to make sense of Hayley's apparent shock at the sight of the brooch falling out of Hayley's cell phone pocket. By the end of the evening, however, Shana concludes that Hayley must have in fact stolen the items — the suggestion that Carrie might have set her up being ridiculous and far-fetched.
8. Hayley has "unfriended" the other group members from her Facebook account. Carrie explains that she had attempted to go to Hayley's house to talk with her, but that Hayley's response was even more



acrimonious than anticipated. The group of girls is devastated as they listen to Carrie's report of Hayley's hateful remarks about Jen's weight, Krysti's wardrobe, and Lori's attitude. Shana is especially horrified to hear that Hayley has lampooned her for having "made out" with scruffy outcast Sly Blackwood. Shana second-guesses her own outrage at Hayley, however, when it occurs to her that she had kept the humiliating details of that evening with Sly Blackwood secret from Hayley and from nearly everyone else in the group... The only person who had known about it, was Carrie.

9. Shana goes to Hayley's house, and encounters a wary, yet polite Hayley who is willing to talk. She learns not only that Hayley has no apparent knowledge of Shana's romantic encounter with Sly, but also that Hayley actual conversation with Carrie was very different from the one Carrie had described to the group. Hayley is horrified to learn of the slanderous messages falsely reported to the group by Carrie. What Carrie had in fact said to Hayley was that the group hated her and wanted nothing more to do with her. Shana is both sickened and puzzled by Carrie's lies, but Hayley suggests that she knows the probable motive for Carrie's actions.
10. Hayley reveals that she had once expressed a dislike for a particular boarder who was staying at her grandparents' house, and that Carrie had advised her to "get rid of him" by falsely accusing him of sexual molestation. That Hayley might likewise assume Carrie's current claim of molestation to be false is probably the reason behind Carrie's attempts to oust Hayley from the group, Hayley theorizes. Carrie must be afraid of being exposed as a liar by Hayley. Hearing this, Shana feels ill with dread and disbelief.
11. Shana admits to Hayley that she had lied in court in order to support Carrie. Carrie had sobbed and cried when she told Shana about her stepfather; her case had been very compelling, Shana recalls. Hayley points out that Carrie frequently uses tears and sobbing to manipulate people. Shana and Hayley determine that they must find out the truth behind Carrie's claims and the motives for her behaviour — including both the trial and the drama of the stolen jewellery — but they are not sure of how they will go about doing this. Shana privately vacillates between believing and not believing that Carrie would be capable of such evil.
12. Shana and Hayley agree not to reveal their collaboration to the group. Shana will attempt to find the stolen jewellery at Carrie's house first, and deal with the truth behind the molestation claims later. Shana manages to arrange a get-together with Carrie the following day after school. Carrie's demeanour is more aloof than usual, but she seems otherwise unsuspecting. Pretending to want to borrow a sweater, Shana goes up to Carrie's room to search for the jewellery. There, she discovers Lori's ring.
13. Carrie asks why Shana took such a long time to find a sweater, and Shana replies that she had been texting. Carrie is suspicious, but finally accepts her own theory, that Shana had been secretly texting a boy. Once in the privacy of her own home, Shana phones Hayley, and discloses her discovery. The two agree that Shana should confess her courtroom lie to her parents, and seek their help in reporting it to the police. They decide to deal with the matter of the stolen jewellery first, though, figuring that once the courtroom lie exposure causes Carrie to be sufficiently alienated from the group, their chances of recovering the lost jewellery from Carrie are very slim. Also, as long as Carrie secretly keeps the jewellery, Hayley will continue to appear guilty of theft in the eyes of her friends.
14. Shana attends a group gathering at Carrie's house, intending to reveal to the group that Carrie has been secretly stashing the stolen jewellery. To her horror, however, Carrie and Krysti already have the jewellery in their hands. Krysti explains that Carrie had phoned her earlier, claiming that Shana had tried to plant them in Carrie's closet. Seeing that the group wholeheartedly believes Carrie and Krysti's story, Shana leaves without much protest as to her innocence. Shana is confused as to how Carrie figured out that she knew about the jewellery.
15. Shana phones Hayley to explain how the plan failed. Later, Shana confesses to her parents about her

courtroom lie. They are horrified, yet supportive of Shana as they agree to go to the police station together.

16. Shana heads to the police station, accompanied by her father, in order to explain that she had lied for the purpose of supporting Carrie in court. The police officer takes note of her confession, but seems not to believe what Shana is saying. Carrie has apparently already been to the police station — claiming that she and Shana had had a dispute, and that Shana had threatened to come to the police station and revoke her testimony from the sexual molestation case, just to “make trouble” for Carrie. At Shana’s father’s urging, the police officer very reluctantly makes an official record of Shana’s statements.
17. Hayley and Shana suffer from the group’s new disdain for them, yet they remain hopeful that they will find a way to convincingly expose Carrie’s guilt. They compile the facts known to them so far. The mystery, they feel, is over the fact that Carrie somehow figured out that Shana was on Hayley’s side, and that Shana had discovered the stash of stolen jewellery.
18. Shana runs into Carrie at the mall. They have a confrontation, in which Carrie boastfully claims responsibility for having broken Shana up with her boyfriend using Facebook sneakery. Shana can hardly fathom the dissonance between Carrie’s responsibility for the breakup, and the (feigned) compassion and comfort she had offered to Shana at that painful time! Shana and Carrie exchange threats: Shana threatens to “see that Carrie doesn’t get away with what she has done in the courtroom”, and Carrie threatens to “teach Shana a lesson about not double-crossing her”. Once she is home, it occurs to Shana that talking to Carrie’s mom might actually be the solution to the whole problem. She runs over, confident that Carrie is still at the mall, and not at home. Mrs. Freeman does not seem happy to see Shana, however, and asks her to go away. Carrie has apparently made up a story to “warn” her mother about Shana coming to visit. Shana leaves, despairing over her lack of success and the dwindling number of options still available, yet not blaming Mrs. Freeman for her delusion.
19. Shana arrives home, only to be summoned, moments later, by two police officers who want to take her to the police station for questioning. Carrie has apparently phoned the police to say that Shana threatened to kill both Carrie and her mother by burning down their home. The fact that Shana had in fact attempted to visit Carrie’s mother makes it difficult for Shana to convincingly defend her innocence to the police. Deeply unnerved, Shana phones Hayley for support and advice.
20. Shana phones the police with what she believes to be a piece of evidence against Carrie: the day that Carrie accused Shana of planting the jewellery in her bedroom closet was a Saturday. However, Carrie had apparently gone to the police station a few days earlier, reporting that there had been a dispute. The officer who noted Shana’s statement seems less than excited about this seemingly trivial anachronism, but takes note of her statement anyway.
21. Shana writes an apology letter to Joe Kelward. Hayley’s suggestion that she contact Joe’s lawyer for mailing information gives Shana the idea to disclose her story to the lawyer. Unfortunately, Krysti overhears her doing so, as Shana calls the lawyer from her cellphone at school. The lawyer fails to return Shana’s phone message, but Shana later receives a call from none other than Carrie! Carrie is distraught — through sobs and tears, she expresses remorse for all that she has done. She promises to disclose the whole affair to the police the following day. She begs Shana to come over and help her to explain the whole thing to her mother. Filled with hope that Carrie’s remorse might be genuine, Shana agrees.
22. Shana leaves her home and arrives at Carrie’s house to find Carrie sitting in the backyard. Shana is flooded with memories of happy times spent with Carrie in this very place. Her hopes are dashed, however, as Carrie hits Shana on the back of the head, causing her to lose consciousness. When she awakens, she is bound, gagged, bleeding, and lying on the floor of Carrie’s shed. Carrie announces her plan to burn Shana alive using a gas jug she stole from Shana’s own garage. She douses Shana, and taunts her with all the



ways in which she had “outsmarted” Shana over the previous months, including the use of a Nanny Cam to catch Shana snooping around for the stolen jewellery. Carrie is about to strike a match when she’s alerted to an incoming video message on her cellphone — sent to Carrie and the rest of the group, from Shana: a video of Carrie’s entire taunting speech and murderous actions.

Epilogue. Jen receives the video and calls the police. Carrie flees the scene. Shana is rescued, and Carrie is eventually caught and arrested. The group gets back together in restored friendship, although they continue to battle old wounds and resentments caused by the tumult with Carrie.

# III THINKING QUESTIONS

- **Chapters 1-3**

Identify three character traits that could describe Carrie, and justify your choices by providing evidence from the text.

What are some of the “perks” and some of the challenges involved with being Carrie’s close friend? Would you want to have a friend like Carrie? Why or why not?

- **Chapters 4-6**

The group of friends is alarmed by Hayley’s insensitive remarks toward Carrie, and is struggling to make sense of her behaviour. Why, according to Shana, might Hayley be responding this way? What possible reason does Carrie suggest?

Based on the scenes and conversations in chapters 4, 5 and 6, what are your own impressions of Hayley? Explain your ideas using evidence from the text.

- **Chapters 7-9**

Why might it have been difficult for Shana to choose to approach Hayley for a conversation? List three possible reasons, and support your ideas with evidence from the text.

Which of the difficulties involved in choosing to visit Hayley would you have found the most daunting and challenging to overcome? Why?

- **Chapters 10-12**

Imagine the scene described by Shana, whereupon Carrie first “disclosed” to her that she was being molested by her stepfather, exhibiting great distress, and later pleading that Shana “help” her by lying in court on her behalf.

Moved by Carrie’s display of raw emotion, Shana agreed to co-operate by lying at the trial. Clearly, Shana is beginning to regret this decision. What might she have done instead?

- **Chapters 13-15:**

Shana and her parents are planning to confess her courtroom lie to the local police.

Do you agree that this decision is a wise one? Consider the possible consequences, both legal and emotional, that might occur as a result of confessing or of not confessing.

Using the Internet, or other resources, determine the types of consequences generally applied to young offenders who are found guilty of committing perjury in your local area.

- **Chapters 16-18**

Much of Carrie's success as a manipulator derives from her ability to get people so angry that they are no longer willing to listen to anyone else, and are thereby blocked from hearing the truth.

Show that this is true by giving 3 or 4 examples from the past three chapters, or earlier in the book.

How can a person ensure that they maintain good listening skills, even in the face of anger or disbelief? Suggest some strategies, using resources from the Internet for ideas, if desired. (Suggestion: search for "Active Listening".)

- **Chapters 19-21**

The situation is beginning to look quite bleak for Shana. If you were in her position, what might you find to be the most difficult aspect of this problem, to cope with, and why?

- The guilt for your role in imprisoning Joe Kelward
- The condescension and scepticism of the police
- The disappointment of your parents
- The betrayal by your "best friend"
- The failure of each of your plans to expose the truth
- Other factors (describe)

How do your feelings seem to compare with those that Shana is experiencing?

- **Chapter 22 and Epilogue**

Even after all that Carrie had done to her, Shana was quick to believe that she was indeed sorry and ready to resume the friendship, as she sat, listening to Carrie's sobs over the phone. What might have inclined her to act this way?

It is very difficult for people to believe that someone or something is harmful, after they have already invested much time, money, energy, or emotion into that person or thing. This is because it creates a set of conflicting beliefs — a situation that psychologists call "cognitive dissonance". Here are three beliefs that might have applied to Shana.

1. "I am a reasonable person. I make good and intelligent choices". (We all believe this as part of our basic self-worth).
2. My time and my trust are precious to me. I would only invest them in someone who truly deserved them.
3. I have invested a lot of time and trust in Carrie. She is my best friend, and she deserves these things.
4. Carrie is a sociopathic liar who is out to do me harm. (reality)

These four statements cannot all be true at the same time. What do we do when faced with cognitive dissonance? Do we reject our beliefs about our own self-worth and decision-making skills? Or do we reject "reality". It may seem only reasonable to accept reality and to let one's self esteem take a hit now and again. However, research shows that, time and again, we are inclined to do exactly the opposite!

Cognitive dissonance has driven people to do and believe some pretty bizarre things. Use the Internet, and other resources, to find more examples of cognitive dissonance in the media, or in social research. Here are some suggested web articles:

<http://thepsychologicalblog.blogspot.com/2010/03/denial-of-fraud-an>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foot-in-the-door\\_technique](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foot-in-the-door_technique)

<http://seattlecounselor.wordpress.com/2010/04/19/the-benjamin-franklin-effect/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/When\\_Prophecy\\_Fails](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/When_Prophecy_Fails)

Who else in *Testify* seems to have been sabotaged by their own cognitive dissonance? Give examples from the text.

# IV READING FOR MEANING

## Quiz

- Chapters 1 to 5
- Chapters 6 to 10
- Chapters 11 to 14
- Chapters 15 to 18
- Chapters 18 to 22 & Epilogue

### Multiple Choice Quiz #1 – Chapters 1 to 5

Chapter 1: Mrs. Freeman’s face looked “pinched and sad”. This is because:

- a) She is on trial, accused of molesting her own daughter, and Shana is there to give supporting testimony.
- b) Her husband is on trial, accused of molesting her daughter, Carrie. Shana is there to give supporting testimony.
- c) Her husband is on trial, accused of molesting Carrie’s best friend Shana. Carrie, (her daughter), is there to give supporting testimony.

Chapter 2: In order to help out her best friend Carrie, Shana has:

- a) Given a false testimony at Carrie’s stepfather’s trial.
- b) Sought her mom’s help to make sure that the jury does not make a mistake.
- c) Brought her ice cream to help her get through a painful break-up.

Chapter 3: Shana is grounded for a week because:

- a) She skipped school to go to Carrie’s house.
- b) She skipped school to go to the courthouse.
- c) She crawled out of her bedroom window to go to Carrie’s house.

Chapter 4: When Hayley’s comment sends Carrie running from the lunch table, crying, Shana feels:

- a) Exasperated. Carrie was grossly overreacting to a silly little joke uttered by her good friend.
- b) Unsurprised. It’s just like Hayley to find something rude or untactful to say at exactly the wrong moment.
- c) Bewildered. Hayley is normally highly compassionate, and is usually eager to help a friend who might be experiencing a problem.

Chapter 5: When Shana’s mom discovers the girls’ secret party, she:

- a) Fixes them snacks and invites them into the TV room.
- b) Doubles Shana’s “grounding” period

c) Launches into one of her lectures about all the garbage they keep watching on YouTube.

### **Multiple Choice Quiz #2 – Chapters 6 to 10**

Chapter 6: Carrie asserts that Hayley needs professional help for her problem with:

- a) Anger
- b) Lying
- c) Stealing

Chapter 7: Shana concludes that Hayley must have indeed stolen the jewellery, because

- a) Hayley has admitted to having problems with theft before, and she went to all the trouble to hide the brooch in her cellphone pocket.
- b) The thefts have been going on for at least a month, and Carrie would have had no motive to falsely accuse her friend
- c) Carrie had been hinting at her suspicions about Hayley for at least a month, and Hayley would have had no motive to confess earlier.

Chapter 8: Carrie went to speak with Hayley at her home, however, she reports that:

- a) Hayley's grandmother rudely slammed the door in her face, not allowing her in.
- b) Hayley refused to talk about any problems or feelings she may be having.
- c) Hayley had nothing but rude things to say about each of the group members.

Chapter 9: Shana realizes that Hayley is innocent of the thefts and that Carrie is lying when:

- a) Hayley clearly knows nothing about Sly Blackwood.
- b) Hayley clearly knows nothing about the value of the stolen brooch.
- c) Hayley reveals that Carrie never came to visit her.

Chapter 10: Hayley reveals that:

- a) She too has been molested —by a creepy boarder who once stayed at her grandparents' house.
- b) A creepy boarder who once lived at her grandparents' house had threatened to molest her. But when she had told Carrie about it, Carrie helped her to convince her grandparents to get rid of him.
- c) Carrie had once advised her to falsely accuse her grandparents' creepy boarder of having molested her, in order to make her grandparents get rid of him.

### **Multiple Choice Quiz #3 – Chapters 11 to 14**

Chapter 11: When Hayley says, "Oh, I've seen Carrie upset lots of times," her tone of voice is:

- a) Sarcastic. She does not believe that Carrie was genuinely suffering or upset the day she told Shana about having been molested.
- b) Defensive and Indignant. Shana seems to think that she is the only who has ever been there for Carrie at a time of need, but there have been many times when the comforter has been Hayley.



- c) Compassionate. Carrie has been crying so often these past few weeks and months. Hayley wonders what they can do to comfort her.

Chapter 12: Why does Shana ask Carrie if she can borrow a sweater?

- a) Carrie's mere presence is making her so uncomfortable that she just needed to get away for a minute — not to mention that Carrie's new frosty attitude is giving her the chills.
- b) She wants to search Carrie's room for the missing jewellery.
- c) She needs a few minutes in private in order to text Hayley about new developments in their plan.

Chapter 13: Why does Shana choose not to confess everything to her parents immediately after finishing her phone conversation with Hayley?

- a) Shana is quite frightened of her parents' inevitably angry reaction, and in fact has no intention of ever confessing to them. However, Hayley is being very pushy, and therefore Shana lies to her about this.
- b) Shana feels the need to keep absolutely quiet about her suspicions — not even telling her parents — for fear that Carrie will discover her "betrayal" and seek revenge.
- c) Shana remembers that they need to solve the mystery of the stolen jewellery before alienating herself from Carrie.

Chapter 14: When Shana's friends believe Carrie's story about Shana planting the jewellery in Carrie's closet, Shana thinks:

- a) "I don't believe them" — they are probably just play-acting, to avoid invoking Carrie's wrath.
- b) "I don't blame them" — they are merely more victims of Carrie's lies and manipulations.
- c) "I don't want their friendship anymore" — who wants friends who are shallow enough to think that you would plant evidence in another girl's closet?

#### **Multiple Choice Quiz #4 – Chapters 15 to 18**

Chapter 15: Shana's parents are worried that she will get charged with perjury (lying in court). They take comfort in the fact that at least

- a) She is a minor, and she did not commit the crime out of malice.
- b) Carrie's role in the perjury was far worse than Shana's.
- c) Shana believed that Carrie's story was true, so it wasn't truly perjury and they wouldn't have strong grounds on which to convict her.

Chapter 16: Officer Plourde does not believe Shana's confession about having lied at Joe Kelward's trial. Carrie has already phoned the police, offering a contradictory story. Upon learning this,

- a) Shana and her dad retract all their statements, and storm out of the police station in anger.
- b) Shana's dad insists that Officer Plourde record Shana's statement, regardless of whether or not he believes her.
- c) Shana's dad insists that Officer Plourde summon Carrie and her family to the station immediately so that they can get the story straight.

Chapter 17: Hayley and Carrie make a list of facts and events to summarize all that they know so far about the case. Their purpose is to:

- a) Send the list to as many people as possible — somebody somewhere must believe that they are innocent.
- b) Find an inconsistency in Carrie’s story or behaviour, somewhere — after all, even a master manipulator like Carrie will eventually make a mistake.
- c) Figure out if they (Hayley and Shana) can really trust each other’s stories — or whether one of them has been lying or confused somewhere along the lines.

Chapter 18: Carrie claims, “I am so much smarter than you, that I actually pity you” when talking with Shana at the mall. How does Carrie support this claim?

- a) She points out that she always managed to call the police before Shana got a chance to talk with them.
- b) She boasts at having managed to convince the group of both Hayley’s AND Shana’s guilt in the “jewellery thefts”.
- c) She claims responsibility for having broken up Shana and Mike without Shana’s slightest suspicion.

### **Multiple Choice Quiz #5 – Chapters 19 to Epilogue**

Chapter 19: The police ask Shana to come to the station. Carrie has claimed that Shana threatened to burn down Carrie’s house with her mother in it. Why does this put Shana in a particularly awkward position?

- a) Shana had, in fact, paid a visit to Carrie’s mother that afternoon.
- b) Shana had, in fact, uttered empty threats to Carrie, in a fit of angry desperation.
- c) Shana already has a police record for playing with fire (an old camp prank), and now the police won’t trust her.

Chapter 20: Shana makes a police report when she notices something wrong with the sequence of events she has recorded so far. Specifically:

- a) She notices that Carrie reported a “threat” made by Shana to the police, but that she in fact had an alibi for the time when the threat was supposedly made.
- b) She notices that Carrie had reported being molested by Mr. Kelward for the past two years, when in fact she could prove that he only started dating Carrie’s mother a year and a half ago.
- c) She notices that the fight that she had had with Carrie over the jewellery on a particular Saturday was apparently “reported” to the police several days before the fight took place.

Chapter 21: Shana is stunned to see Carrie’s name and number on her cell phone’s “caller ID”. She picks up the call, and discovers that Carrie is:

- a) Furious. Krysti must have told her about Shana’s call to her stepdad’s lawyer and Carrie has called to warn Shana just how horrible her vengeance is going to be.
- b) Crying. She says she is absolutely sorry about the whole affair, and that she plans to confess to the police. She begs for Shana’s help in breaking the news to her mother.
- c) Mysteriously aloof. She smoothly and coolly asks to meet with Shana, but refuses to say why.

Chapter 22 & Epilogue. Shana saves her own life by:

- a) Sending a video message of Carrie's boastful confession to all her friends, including Carrie, which sends Carrie running.
- b) Managing to call 911, even though she is bound and gagged.
- c) Using Carrie's "Nanny Cam" teddy bear to alert others to her location in Carrie's shed.

**Multiple Choice Answer Key:**

1 B

2 A

3 B

4 C

5 A

6 C

7 B

8 C

9 A

10 C

11 A

12 B

13 C

14 B

15 A

16 B

17 B

18 C

19 A

20 C

21 B

22 A

# V STUDENT ACTIVITIES

## Debate

Imagine that it is now Shana’s turn to be on trial, facing a charge of perjury.

Divide the class into two groups, with a small group reserved to serve as judges (optional).

Group # 1 represents the prosecution. They must prepare victim impact statements read by Joe Kelward and Mrs. Freeman. They will prepare a speech (and rebuttal) in the role of the Crown attorney.

Group # 2 represents the defence. They must prepare character witness testimony on behalf of Shana’s parents and Hayley. They will prepare a speech (and rebuttal) in the role of the defence attorney.

The judges must prepare a speech describing the factors that weigh most heavily in determining justice in cases such as these, and describe how their verdict fits in to this vision.

Question: What, if anything, should be the consequence handed down to Shana for her decision to lie at Joe Kelward’s trial?

Resources: Local law information, specifically about youth justice and perjury, information about the types of sentencing used for young offenders in your area (e.g. probation, incarceration, community service, referral to child and youth services, counselling, house arrest, etc.).

## Point of View: Writing a Personal Letter

### Quote from the Epilogue

Four months later, Shana says:

*Our group of friends is back together, except things are still a bit shaky. Hayley and I are closer than we used to be... [but] I no longer have a best friend. And while there are things about that which I still miss, there is something good and pure in the freedom. And yet, I am left with a kind of sadness that I can't quite explain.*

Imagine that you are Shana, writing a personal letter to Hayley, reflecting on your friendship and on the impact your words and actions had on each other as you each dealt with your role in the aftermath of Carrie’s trial. This might be a letter that you would actually send to Hayley, or, like the letter written to Joe Kelward, it might end up being kept private, merely a tool for processing your feelings.

In any case, these are the questions on your mind: Could Hayley become your “real” best friend? Was she a true friend to you as you dealt with the impact of Carrie’s schemes? What has Hayley done that truly helped or encouraged you? What might have left you hurting or confused? What would you need from each other in order to become “best friends”?

As you write, include evidence from the text to support the events and feelings that you mention in the letter. As you do so, however, remember to maintain the tone and style of a personal letter, and not that of an essay

# Social Media Campaign

- *Teen Use of Social Media*

## Background

The girls in *Testify* all carry cell phones and are constantly sending text messages, accessing YouTube, and communicating via Facebook. The effects on their lives range from the ruinous (a manipulation of Mike's account by Carrie that leads to Mike and Shana's painful break-up) — to the life-saving (Shana's video text of her capture by Carrie prompts Jen to call 911 for Shana's rescue).

## Purpose

The purpose of this assignment is to challenge students to think critically about the use of electronic communication devices, and the role of social media in particular, in our society. It also asks students to consider the ways in which public service advertising can effectively bring about change in the behaviour of their target audience, and to apply these principles as they create their own public service advertisement related to the use of social media.

## Special considerations

The readers in your classroom may experience similar interactions with communications technology and social media in school and at home. Or, for cultural, economic, or other reasons, they may use these technologies significantly less often. It may be especially difficult for avid users of these devices to consider the perspective of those opposed to or concerned about social media use — or even to imagine what the world would be like without Facebook, YouTube and text messaging! For this reason, you may wish to introduce the unit with cartoons. They provide a means to raise concerns about social media, without lecturing or polarizing the conversation as "youth usage vs. adult technophobia".

## Thinking Questions

Using the text of *Testify*, as well as students' own ideas, work as a class (or in small groups) to generate answers to the following questions:

1. What are some general advantages to using social media such as YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and text messaging?
2. What are some disadvantages to these forms of media usage?
3. How does usage of YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and text messaging affect:
  - Ease of communication
  - Quality of communication
  - Number of friends
  - Quality of friendships
4. How does the use of social media/text messaging affect:
  - Productivity at work and at school
  - The way people spend their leisure time
5. How does use of social media affect privacy/accountability among friends, co-workers and others?

6. Is use of social media addictive? If so, is such an addiction harmful?
7. What might “balanced use” of social media look like?

### **Response**

As individuals or in small groups, ask students to consider their ideas and to extract a message about appropriate and healthy use of social media. They will then create a poster, or short dramatic advertisement that reflects this message.



# VI RUBRICS

- Persuasive essay (Debate)
- Teen use of social media
- Point of view letter writing