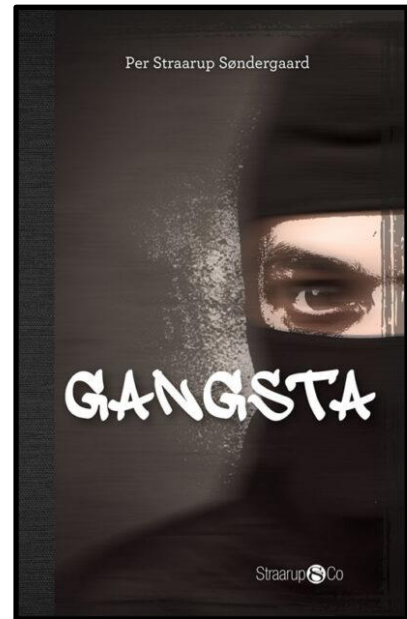


Gangsta

Before reading

Activity 1 – Title

- Look at the title of the book.
- In pairs, guess what the book is about.
- Write down your idea(s).
- Split up and find new partners – groups of four.
- Take turns and share your idea(s).



Activity 2 – Content

- Look at the contents (page 5).
- Try to tell the story of the book using the titles of the chapters.

Activity 3 – Mindmap

- In groups of three, make a mindmap about the word “Gangsta”.
- Present your list to one/two groups.

While reading

Activity 1 – The good life

On page 13, Jake says, “*We were only little shits becoming slightly larger shits*”.

- In pairs, explain what Jake means by saying this.
- At the time, why does Jake want to be a gangsta?
- How does Jake describe gangastas?

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Activity 2 – Another life

On page 18, Jake mentions that he does not want to be a gangsta anymore.

- a. In pairs, explain why Jake wants to take a different direction with his life.
- b. Does Jake know what he wants to do later in life?
- c. Do you know what you want to do when you are older?
- d. In pairs, discuss what you want in your future.

Activity 3 – Robbing a gas station

On page 29, Jake says, *“My take is this: Fuck this, so we are robbers too?”*

- a. Why will Jake and his friends rob a gas station?
- b. In pairs, explain to each other why robbing is illegal.
- c. In pairs, discuss if Jake and his friends could find another solution to their problem than robbing a gas station?

Activity 4 – Close to fainting

On page 37-40, Jake is about to rob the gas station, when he sees the girl working there.

- a. In pairs, explain who works at the gas station, and why Jake cannot go through with the plan.
- b. Jake says, *“I am close to fainting”*. Explain to your classmate what Jake is feeling.
- c. Make a brainstorm of other feelings Jake maybe feel at this moment.

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Activity 5 – Mum and dad

On page 44-45, after Jake could not rob the gas station, he heads home to his parents.

- a. In pairs, explain the reason why Jake asks his parents for help.
- b. How does his parents react?
- c. How does Jake feel about their reaction?
- d. Who would you go to for help in a crisis or if you have a problem?

After reading

Activity 1 – Keywords

- a. Write five keywords from the book.
- b. Share your keywords in groups of four and explain your choice.

Activity 2 – Fake

What information do you get about the main character, Jake?

- a. Collect information from the story and write a profile of Jake.
- b. Compare your list in class.
- c. In groups of three, discuss why Jake does not talk much with his parents.

Activity 3 – My name

On page 45, Jake says, *“I am glad to hear them say my name”*.

- a. In pairs, explain what Jake means by saying this.

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Activity 4 – Expressions

In the book there are the following expressions:

- *“Right now, I am neck deep in shit”* (page 9)
- *“I don’t give a fuck!”* (page 12)
- *“Or flat on my ass”* (page 18)
- *“Others are stoning out”* (page 21)
- *“I run my lungs out”* (page 37)
- *“my heart is racing in my chest”* (page 43)

- a. In pairs, explain the meaning of the sentences.
- b. Write down other ways to express the same meanings.

Activity 5 – What happens next?

- a. What will happen to Jake?
- b. Will he get out of his gangsta life?
- c. Will he get a better relationship to his parents?

In pairs: Walk and talk – take a walk and talk you way into Jake’s future.

Or,

In groups: You can do your own new ending by doing storytelling. Take turns – one student says one sentence and the next student takes over and so forth – make the story up as you talk.