

TEACHER PAGE



"Not Even Once"

Grades 6-8, Lesson 1- POEM

<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/i-am-meth/> Here is the first version of Reynolds' "Ms. Crystal Meth," as published by the *The Heavener Ledger* in September 2000:

***** This is the FULL version of the poem. Note pages below for excerpts to be used in specific grade levels. The teacher/school district may use discretion to use the full poem at 8th grade level. *****

Ms. Crystal Meth (FULL VERSION)

I destroy homes. I tear families apart. I take your children, and that's just the start. I'm more valued than diamonds, more precious than gold. The sorrow I bring is a sight to behold.

If you need me, remember; I'm easily found. I live all around you, in school and in town. I live with the rich. I live with the poor. I live just down the road, and maybe next door.

I'm made in a lab, but not in one like you think. I can be made under your kitchen sink. Or in your child's closet, and even out in the woods. If this scares you to death, it certainly should.

I have many names, but there's one you'll know best. I'm sure you've heard of me: My name's Crystal Meth. My power is awesome. Try me, you'll see. But if you do, you may never break free. Just try me once, and I might let you go. But if you try me twice, then I own your soul.

When I possess you, you'll steal and you'll lie. You'll do what you have to, just to get high. The crimes you'll commit for my narcotic charms will be worth the pleasure you'll feel in my arms.

You'll lie to your mother. You'll steal from your dad. When you see their tears you must not feel sad. Just forget your morals, and how you were raised. I'll be your conscience. I'll teach you my ways.

I take kids from their parents. I take parents from kids. I turn people from God. I separate friends. I'll take everything from you; even your good looks, and your pride. I'll be with you always, right there by your side.

You'll give up everything; your family, your home, your money, your friends. You'll be all alone. I'll take and I'll take, 'til you've no more to give. When I finish with you, you'll be lucky to live.

If you try me, be warned: THIS IS NOT A GAME. If I'm given the chance, I'll drive you insane. I'll ravage your body. I'll control your mind. I'll own you completely. Your soul will be mine.

The nightmares I'll give you when you're lying in bed. And the voices you'll hear, from inside your head. The sweats, the shakes, and the visions you'll see; I want you to know these are your gifts. From me.

By then it's too late, and you'll know in your heart that you are now mine, and we shall not part. You'll regret that you tried me. (They always do.) But you came to me, not I to you.

You knew this would happen. How many times were you told? But you challenged my power. You chose to be bold. You could have said 'no', and then walked away. If you could live that day over, now what would you say?

My power is awesome, as I told you before. I can take your mother and turn her into a whore.

I'll be your master and you'll be my slave. I'll even go with you when you go to your grave.

Now that you've met me, what will you do?

Will you try me or not? It's all up to you.

I can show you more misery than words can tell.

Come, take my hand, and let me lead you to Hell.

--- See student handout pages below ---

Name _____

Hour _____

Poem for use with Lesson 1

Grade 6 - Poem Excerpt*

Title : _____

I destroy homes. I tear families apart. I take your children, and that's just the start. I'm more valued than diamonds, more precious than gold. The sorrow I bring is a sight to behold.

If you need me, remember; I'm easily found. I live all around you, in school and in town. I live with the rich. I live with the poor. I live just down the road, and maybe next door.

I'm made in a lab, but not in one like you think. I can be made under your kitchen sink. Or in your child's closet, and even out in the woods. If this scares you to death, it certainly should.

I have many names, but there's one you'll know best. I'm sure you've heard of me: _____
_____. My power is awesome. Try me, you'll see. But if you do, you may never break free. Just try me once, and I *might* let you go. But if you try me twice, then I own your soul.

When I possess you, you'll steal and you'll lie. You'll do what you have to, just to get high. The crimes you'll commit for my narcotic charms will be worth the pleasure you'll feel in my arms.

You'll lie to your mother. You'll steal from your dad. When you see their tears you must not feel sad. Just forget your morals, and how you were raised. I'll be your conscience. I'll teach you my ways.

[...]

Now that you've met me, what will you do?

Will you try me or not? It's all up to you.

[...]

Choose 2 of the following reflection questions to answer based on your thoughts of the poem.

1. Choose one stanza of the poem and explain what you think the author is talking about. Provide supporting evidence.
2. What feelings does this poem evoke? Choose at least one feeling word and describe using supporting phrases from the poem to explain your answer.
3. Have you had any situations where you challenged someone else's power even though you knew the potential for a negative outcome? Describe the situation, how it turned out and, if applicable, how it was resolved.
4. Select a section of the poem that scares you the most. Explain why that situation scares you.

Name _____

Hour _____

Poem for use with Lesson 1

Grade 7/8 - Poem Excerpt*

Title : _____

I destroy homes. I tear families apart. I take your children, and that's just the start. I'm more valued than diamonds, more precious than gold. The sorrow I bring is a sight to behold.

If you need me, remember; I'm easily found. I live all around you, in school and in town. I live with the rich. I live with the poor. I live just down the road, and maybe next door.

I'm made in a lab, but not in one like you think. I can be made under your kitchen sink. Or in your child's closet, and even out in the woods. If this scares you to death, it certainly should.

I have many names, but there's one you'll know best. I'm sure you've heard of me: _____
_____. My power is awesome. Try me, you'll see. But if you do, you may never break free. Just try me once, and I *might* let you go. But if you try me twice, then I own your soul.

When I possess you, you'll steal and you'll lie. You'll do what you have to, just to get high. The crimes you'll commit for my narcotic charms will be worth the pleasure you'll feel in my arms.

You'll lie to your mother. You'll steal from your dad. When you see their tears you must not feel sad. Just forget your morals, and how you were raised. I'll be your conscience. I'll teach you my ways.

I take kids from their parents. I take parents from kids. [...] I separate friends. I'll take everything from you; even your good looks, and your pride. I'll be with you always, right there by your side.

You'll give up everything; your family, your home, your money, your friends. You'll be all alone. I'll take and I'll take, 'til you've no more to give. When I finish with you, you'll be lucky to live.

If you try me, be warned: THIS IS NOT A GAME. If I'm given the chance, I'll drive you insane. I'll ravage your body. I'll control your mind. I'll own you completely. Your soul will be mine.

The nightmares I'll give you when you're lying in bed. And the voices you'll hear, from inside your head. The sweats, the shakes, and the visions you'll see; I want you to know these are your gifts. From me.

By then it's too late, and you'll know in your heart that you are now mine, and we shall not part. You'll regret that you tried me. (They always do.) But you came to me, not I to you.

You knew this would happen. How many times were you told? But you challenged my power. You chose to be bold. You could have said 'no', and then walked away. If you could live that day over, now what would you say?

[...]

Now that you've met me, what will you do?

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