

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 'Half of children' theft victims

From BBC News 10.10.07 © BBC MMVII

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/uk/7036880.stm>

**Almost half of all children have had property stolen from them at school, a survey by the charity the Howard League for Penal Reform suggests.**

The survey of more than 3,000 children, questioned between 1997 and 2006, also found that 18% had been the victim of theft on their way home from school. It also suggests that 57% of children have had property **deliberately** damaged. The charity claims that almost all - 95% - of those surveyed have suffered some kind of victimisation. It refers mainly to low-level offences which took place in schools and playgrounds - 70% said they had been hit or kicked - and were unlikely to be reported to police.

### 'Outside world'

The survey found that 49% of those questioned had had property stolen at school. It also **suggested** that 46% of young people had been called racist names.

Paul Fawcett, of Victim Support, told BBC Radio Five Live young people are "not getting support" from the "outside world" of parents, teachers and police. As a **consequence**, they "feel they have to find their own solutions", many of which are violent.

Similarly, the Howard League said children were "**frequently** the victims of crime perpetrated by other young people".

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 'Half of children' theft victims

Director Frances Crook said children were **rarely** consulted about "the **impact** of crime on their lives".

"The surveys **revealed** that these crimes are often not reported as children think adults will not listen to them or the crime will be **viewed** as too small to bother with," she added.

"Ironically, the very institutions where children should feel safest - their school environments set up and **patrolled** by adults - are where children are most commonly victimised."

"The Howard League believes that better solutions on dealing with child victimisation and crime can be found in **expanding** and developing conflict resolution and mediation-based techniques into educational programmes for schools."

### Youth clubs

Two-thirds of children reported incidents to parents while 28% went to police. Youngsters surveyed said skate parks and youth clubs would keep children busy and would therefore cut crime.

The survey involved children aged between 10 and 15 in Leeds, Northamptonshire and the London boroughs of Camden, Enfield and Southwark. Every year, between 1997 and 2006, the survey asked children about their **experiences** of crime in the previous twelve months.

From BBC News 10.10.07 © BBC MMVII

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/1/hi/uk/7036880.stm>

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 'Half of children' theft victims

A. Read the article and decide whether the following statements are true or false. There may also be cases where we do not know as there are insufficient facts.

1. 18% of British children steal from others on their way home.

True/False/Don't know

2. Paul Fawcett works for the Howard League

True/False/Don't know

3. This survey was conducted countrywide.

True/False/Don't know

4. Children do not report crime as they feel they might be told off.

True/False/Don't know

5. Children felt skate parks and youth clubs would keep them busy.

True/False/Don't know

6. Less than 30% of children reported incidents to the police.

True/False/Don't know

7. Children are looking to solve the problems themselves.

True/False/Don't know

8. Kicking is considered to be a lower level incident.

True/False/Don't know

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 'Half of children' theft victims

B. Read the article and then answer these questions

1. When was the survey conducted and how old were the children who were questioned.
2. Which organisation is suggesting conflict resolution techniques as a means of addressing the problem?
3. What or who do children deem to be the "outside world"?
4. What reasons did the survey give for children not reporting crime?
5. What percentage of children have had their property damaged deliberately?
6. Which organisation undertook the survey?
7. Where are children most commonly victimised and why could this be seen as ironic?
8. What percentage of youngsters had suffered some kind of victimisation?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## 'Half of children' theft victims

C. Read the article. Look up any words you are not sure of in a dictionary or discuss with other learners.

Look at the words in the text that are in bold. They are listed on the left below. Can you match them with a word on the right that can replace them in the text.

For example **deliberately** can be replaced by **intentionally**

<b>deliberately</b>	→	<b>intentionally</b>
<b>suggested</b>		<b>involvement with</b>
<b>consequence</b>		<b>effect</b>
<b>frequently</b>		<b>indicated</b>
<b>rarely</b>		<b>protected</b>
<b>impact</b>		<b>showed</b>
<b>revealed</b>		<b>seldom</b>
<b>viewed</b>		<b>result</b>
<b>patrolled</b>		<b>often</b>
<b>expanding</b>		<b>considered</b>
<b>experiences of</b>		<b>increasing</b>

# 'Half of children' theft victims

## Answers

### A

- |          |               |
|----------|---------------|
| 1. false | 2. false      |
| 3. false | 4. don't know |
| 5. true  | 6. true       |
| 7. true  | 8. true       |

### B

1. Between 1997 and 2006. The children were between 10 and 15.
2. The Howard League
3. Parents, teachers and police
4. Parents will not listen or the crime is too small to bother with.
5. 57%
6. The Howard League
7. At school. Because they should feel safe there as it is an adult controlled environment.
8. 95%

### C

<b>deliberately</b>	<b>intentionally</b>
<b>suggested</b>	<b>indicated</b>
<b>consequence</b>	<b>result</b>
<b>frequently</b>	<b>often</b>
<b>rarely</b>	<b>seldom</b>
<b>impact</b>	<b>effect</b>
<b>revealed</b>	<b>showed</b>
<b>viewed</b>	<b>considered</b>
<b>patrolled</b>	<b>protected</b>
<b>expanding</b>	<b>increasing</b>
<b>experiences of</b>	<b>involvement with</b>