

You Deconstructed

Main Characters

<u>Name</u>	<u>Trait</u>	<u>Details</u>
Narrator		I _____, I _____, and I even _____
		_____ always _____
		S/He would _____. S/He'd _____ just to _____.
		S/He _____. And when you were around him/her, you _____. If you didn't _____, we _____.

Setting

1. Name of the neighborhood where you (or most of you) lived: _____
2. One thing you COULDN'T do in your neighborhood: _____
3. If you DID do that one thing: _____
4. Characteristic smell or sound in your neighborhood: _____

Subordinate Characters

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Details</u>
		If you walked by the right building at the right time you might hear _____
		_____ng
		who spent her/his days _____

Contrast to Bordering Neighborhoods

<u>Location</u>	<u>Characteristics</u>

“ _____ ”

A story by _____

Of the _____ of us, I was _____. I _____, I _____, and I even _____. _____ was the _____ one. _____ always _____ was the _____. S/He would _____. S/He'd _____ just to _____. But _____ was the _____ one. S/He _____ And when you were around him/her, you _____. If you didn't _____ Even though s/he was _____, we _____.

We all lived in _____. And _____ was a place where you _____. The _____ always hung in the air like the smell of _____. If you walked by the right building at the right time you might hear _____ or _____ on _____. Or there was always _____, who spent his/her days over on _____ by _____.

But _____ was a little different than a lot of the other neighborhoods in _____. We _____ but we weren't anything like _____ in _____ or the ones _____. We were right between _____ and _____, trapped between _____ and the place _____. To me that made us _____, something more than _____.

If anybody asked us, that was where we said we were from.

Dark

A novel by Kenji Jasper

Of the four of us, I was the smart one. I did the best in school, I got a few awards, and I even got to introduce Mayor Barry when he came to visit my junior high school. E was the lucky one. Everything always went his way no matter what the odds were. Ray Ray was the crazy one. He would do anything just for the rush. He'd smash somebody in the mouth at a party a half a city away from home just to see the look on the man's face when he took that first hit. But Snowflake was the bad one. He did what he wanted. And when you were around him, you did what he wanted too. If you didn't he caused problems. Even though he was our main boy, we didn't want any problems from him.

We all lived in Shaw. And Shaw was a place where you didn't come to play around. The threat of bullets and beat-downs always hung in the air like the smell of burning tar. If you walked by the right building at the right time you might hear the Williamses arguing about their son Damien's crack habit or

Mr. Harris on the third floor yelling at the newspaper about how the Redskins wouldn't make it to another Super Bowl in his lifetime. Or there was always Frank, who spent his days over on the playground impressing the little kids by showing them the bullet scar on his calf and the chrome-plated 9mm that gave him the scar when he dropped it on the ground while running from someone he owed money to.

But Shaw was a little different than a lot of the other neighborhoods in Northwest. We went hard but we weren't anything like the cats down in Southeast or the ones in Northeast off of Montana Avenue. We were right between downtown and U Street, trapped between the suit-and-tie DC you saw in the movies and the place people burned down after they killed Martin Luther King long before I was born. To me that made us special, something more than just another name they called out at the go-go clubs on Saturday nights.

If anybody asked us, that was where we said we were from.

Dark Deconstructed

Main Characters

<u>Name</u>	<u>Trait</u>	<u>Details</u>
Narrator	Smart	I <u>did the best in school</u> , I <u>got a few awards</u> , and I even <u>got to introduce Mayor Barry when he came to visit my junior high school</u> .
E	Lucky	_____ always _____ _____
Ray Ray	Crazy	S/He would _____. S/He'd _____ just to _____.
Snowflake	Bad	S/He _____. And when you were around him/her, you _____. If you didn't _____, we _____.

Setting

1. Name of the neighborhood where you (or most of you) lived: _____
2. One thing you COULDN'T do in your neighborhood: _____
3. If you DID do that one thing: _____
4. Characteristic smell or sound in your neighborhood: _____

Subordinate Characters

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Details</u>
Williamses	Apartment Building	If you walked by the right building at the right time you might hear <u>the Williamses arguing about their son Damien's crack habit</u>
Mr. Harris	Third Floor	on the third floor _____ng _____ _____
Frank	Playground	who spent his days over on the playground who spent her/his days _____ _____ _____.

Contrast to Bordering Neighborhoods

<u>Location</u>	<u>Characteristics</u>
Southeast	
Off Montana Avenue	
Downtown	the suit-and-tie DC you saw in the movies
U Street	and the place people burned down after they killed Martin Luther King long before I was born