Appendix N

National Geographic

Instagram “Portraits of People Living in the Streets”

Student Name: _________________________                   Date: _____________       Hour: ________

For each image and caption, answer the following three questions in complete sentences and as specifically as possible:

1. What do I know about this person?
2. What do I wonder about this and their situation?
3. How does this person/situation make me feel?
Martin: "How long have you been out here on the streets?"
Markeith: “I’ve been out here since 2004. I was in tenth grade. My mother passed away and left me kinda…My dad’s a crack head so I didn't really have too much family. I’m from the Highlands. I been out here for quite awhile. But I try to be upbeat about it.”
Martin: “You quit school at grade ten then?”
Markeith: “Yeah.”
Martin: “Your mom must have been really young when she passed away, man.”
Markeith: “Yeah, she was late thirties.”
Martin: “Drug related?”
Markeith: “She was shot in the spinal cord. Her boyfriend was selling drugs. They came lookin’ for him and killed my mom. That’s why I’m trying to keep myself away from all of that.”
Martin: "You've tried to find housing with your girlfriend?"
Pablo: "Yes. She's currently pregnant. I've called many programs before and it's all the run around with... they either say 'Well, you have to come back tomorrow or come back some other day or earlier or you have to call in advance or there's a waiting list.' And then there's been times where one program would refer us to another program and that program would say 'Well now we're full, you can check out this program.' Which is just literally the program that referred us to that program. It's all just the same thing over and over."
M: "How did you end up living on the street?"
P: "When I turned eighteen my mom said 'Son, you have to go. Your sister is getting old, I need my privacy, she needs hers, your brothers have all left...' and she's kicking my brother and his wife and his two kids out too."
M: "She kicked you and your brother and your brother's wife and kids out?"
P: "Yeah"
M: "Why?"
P: "It was a two bedroom house. It's small. She needs her privacy. I understand. I love my little sister and I'd rather have her somewhere to stay than me..."
M: "How do you come by money?"
P: "Me and my girlfriend work when we can. So I mean we try to save up as much as we can and when we need to eat, we eat. Work our way up."
M: "How do you make sure you don’t get robbed at night?"
P: "At night what we do is we sleep at a church, a well-lit area. And sometimes, if we have to, we ride the bus"
all night, sleep on the bus if it’s too cold.”
M: “How long have you guys been together?”
P: “We’ve been together for a year and a little more than a half already. I’m happy. And she’s having my kid so… I love her and I already love my little kid.”
M: “You guys are staying away from drugs, I have a feeling. You seem very clear-minded.”
J: “Yeah. I’ve seen what it does to people. I used to have a friend who was on meth.
M: “Where does your girlfriend work?”
J: “She works at a KFC. Yeah. She works minimum wage. She got promoted about a year ago to supervisor. So they bumped her up to ten.”
Martin: “Where are you from?”
David: “I’m from the Midwest, Iowa. I’ve been out here about seven or eight years.”
M: “How long living on the street?”
D: “Seven, eight years.”
M: “And you’re living in a shelter down here?”
D: “Yes. They’re gonna get me housing eventually so I just hang in there and do what they tell me to do. I need the housing. Right now I’m sixty. I’m hoping to retire at sixty-two but I don’t know until I look it up on the website if I can still retire at sixty-two or not. It may be sixty-five by now or sixty-seven.
M: “How many years did you work?”
D: “I worked twenty-seven years for a major printer in Iowa. Seven days a week. I had money in my pocket, was too tired to spend it. Like literally I worked for seven days a week. Yeah it was the best job I could come up with so there’s no reason to leave when you’re making good money. You have to stay until they close the doors, which they eventually did. They got a state of the art plant in Poland. They shut us down.”
M: “But then eventually the money ran out and you had a hard time finding a new line of work?”
D: “Uh huh. ‘Cause of my age. We start hitting age discrimination at forty-five. I did. And I had twenty-seven years in a factory and nobody would touch me at a warehouse job or anything.”
M: “Which magazines did you print?”
D: “Our most famous one would be Penthouse followed by Better Homes & Gardens. I saw everything three months in advance from when it hit the stands because you gotta stay ahead of deadlines. When computers came I thought ‘Oh man, print is gonna be in trouble.’”
Rosalee: “I used to be really bad in drug use.”
Martin: “You did drugs for a couple years?”
R: “Since I was thirteen.”
M: “What was the drug of choice?”
R: “Methamphetamine.”
M: “Do you still do it sometimes?”
R: “No, I am seventy-nine days sober. Yeah, it’s been a road but I’m so happy to be sober now. I’ve lost my mom and because of drug use I wasn’t able to spend time with her so I made her a promise when I talked to her on the phone before she passed away that I would get sober.”
M: “You started at thirteen?”
R: “Yeah.”
M: “What brought you to it?”
R: “My mom was a really bad crack head. Money went towards the drugs and before you knew it there was no food in the house and so I found myself stealing from my mom to feed me and my brother. And a friend of mine sniffed a line in front of me and I was like, what’s that? Does it take care of hunger pains and he’s like yeah. And I was like, umm, can I try? And one of my friends said no and the other one said yes and so I went with the one that said yes and tried it and from there on everything was just ‘down hill.’”
Martin: “How old are you Kemi? You look like you are fifteen.”
Kemi: “I’m nineteen. I turned nineteen November 13th.”
M: “How long have you been out here?”
K: “I’ve been out here on and off for four years ‘cause I used to run away from a group home.”
M: "Four years already?"
K: "Yeah, but I’m working on getting my housing so I might be off the street soon…I have a dog too that they’re gonna allow me to have because he’s a service animal.
M: "Why do you need a service animal?"
K: "Depression and anxiety. He’s a service animal for emotional support."
M: "How long have you had depression?"
K: "Well, I kinda developed it just being out here on the streets and being alone all the time…It’s kinda just something that I developed with me because I stopped eating and I stopped sleeping because I was so scared before I got my dog.”
F.

Stony: "I’m skilled, I have three different degrees so I don’t understand why can’t I get a job, why am I either too over qualified or too under qualified? I’m over qualified to flip a hamburger, I’m under qualified to do other things. It’s like, I don’t know. So I’ve been homeless now for almost two years, going on two and a half years, for the first time in my life. I been on the street too long though. It’s tiring me out, it’s wearing me out. In December I’ll be fifty-five.”
Martin: “Do you live on the street?”
David: “I’ve been living on the street for five years, going on six.”
M: “Anyone who saw you walking down the street would never know. How do you keep that shirt so clean?”
D: “I learn how to keep it clean. You gotta adapt to your environment…take time to respect yourself if you want respect from others.”
M: “You go to job interviews?”
D: “I've had jobs.”
M: “What kind of jobs have you had?”
D: “I had a job right here in landscaping.” M: “You like landscaping?”
D: “Yeah, it's fun. I know a lot about it. It's what I've been doing my whole life besides laying brick and reconstructing houses.”
M: “How did you end up living on the streets? What happened?”
D: “I was a foster kid for a couple years. The last couple of years of childhood. So when I got out I had a scholarship to go to college and I took advantage of the scholarship but in the middle of nowhere in Arizona I didn't have anywhere to go for summer break so I ended up moving out here, getting a job…It took me three years to get back into school at [college – name withheld]. I’m on scholarship too.”
M: “Do your other classmates know you live on the streets?”
D: “I had a classmate that…We got to know each other and he kinda figured. But I don't try to… I don't like that being exposed.”
M: “Do you know of any other students living on the
D: “My age that are full time? No.”
M: “Are you sure you're okay having your picture out there?”
D: “Don't worry about it.”
M: “Really?”
D: “Don't put it on there, yeah.”
Martin: "What brings you to living on the street?"
Alexis: “We lost our house, me and my husband, and we got two kids, two boys, and…Well I don't like to talk about it but basically we lost our place ‘cause of an eviction. My kids are now with my sister and they’re basically gonna be staying there until we get a place to put a roof over our head. We’ve been staying at the shelter downtown in LA and we wake up at 6:00am in the morning and we come out and we go on the internet, we go to places to look for housing… We got married in 2014. It’s making me cry more and it’s making him more humble to deal with the situation but the frustration of looking for housing is very hard. They want you to make either three or five times [the income over the monthly rent]. It’s devastating because… a studio could cost you nine hundred, a one-bedroom could cost you twelve hundred, and a two-bedroom could cost you fifteen to sixteen hundred. I don’t know why the rent in LA has went up so high. I’m accustomed to when… it used to be for a two-bedroom like eight or nine hundred dollars. And now it has gone up so fast, I don’t even know what’s going on.”
Human trafficking remains one of the world's most intractable and horrific problems—even more so today than when I took on a year-long project on the issue. To illuminate the plight of an estimated 27 million people held in bondage worldwide, I went to 12 countries where I witnessed unspeakable horrors. The story got the biggest response in the history of National Geographic until then, but my efforts to publish the work in book form failed. No publisher wanted to take on the challenge. I'm still trying, and still heartbroken from the stories of the victims and survivors. Here, a baby in extreme danger of being sold into the illegal adoption trade, one of the many forms of trafficking.