

INTRODUCTION: BILL OF RIGHTS

A day in the Life of James and Jane Justin

Two young adults, James and Jane Justin, arrive in the nation of Tyranny on a rainy Friday morning. A road sign warns, “*Entering the state of Submission, United States of Tyranny: All Persons Entering Must Obey Tyranny’s Authority— Violators Will Be Punished.*”

The Justins stop their camper at a checkpoint where there are security guards. James Justin also notices security cameras that are aimed at their camper. The guards are well armed with what appear to be automatic rifles. Some of the guards have on green fatigues with the initials NGOT (National Guard of Tyranny); other guards wear brown uniforms with the initials SS (State Security).

One of the national guard asks the Justins for identification. The guard also asks them to step out of their camper and give the keys to another national guard standing by. The guard reviews their driver’s licenses, and then, without returning them, tells them to step inside the national guard headquarters. The guard with the keys has opened the rear door of the Justin’s camper and has removed their luggage. The guard has also set a magazine and newspaper aside that was taken from inside the vehicle.

Meanwhile, James and Jane Justin have been separated— James Justin taken into a room by a male national guard and Jane Justin into a different room by a female guard. Both James and Jane Justin are searched. Afterwards, they are told to report to the main office of the national guards’ headquarters. Upon entering the main office, the Justins observed a pile containing some of their t-shirts, some books, a religious pamphlet, a daily newspaper, and a hunting rifle. A supervisor of the guards informs the Justins that these materials are being confiscated by the state security for Tyranny because they contain subversive messages.

Jane Justin protests, asking what is subversive and threatening. She is told to shut-up. The supervisor holds up a t-shirt from the luggage that has a large question mark in the center with the words “QUESTION AUTHORITY” printed under the question mark. The supervisor says such expressions are not permitted in Tyranny, and that the other items confiscated were not on the approved reading list of the Ministry of Information. Only approved items may be read or spoken publicly in Tyranny.

The national guard then asks about the religious pamphlet. Jane Justin boldly proclaims, “Look, our religious beliefs are personal, and they are none of your business!” The supervisor calls her a “sacrilegious swine.” A state security guard informs the Justins that there is only one religion in the state of Submission, and that is total obedience to Tyranny.

Jane Justin is forcibly pushed onto a chair by guards, and the supervisor tells her to shut-up and learn to obey the authority or she will be bound and gagged. James Justin protests the treatment of Jane and demands the return of their property.

The supervisor calls in two other guards and tells them to place the Justins in separate detention rooms until a more thorough investigation can be done. Again, the Justins protest, asking why they are being detained and demanding the right to call an attorney. The supervisor laughs as the Justins are lead off by the guards. James Justin asks the state security guard to help them. He asks, “Who can we appeal to in the state for help?” The state security guard soberly

explains that there are no state rights -- the only right is the absolute authority of Tyranny to control all lives.

The Justins are held in isolation for hours— no food, no sanitary facilities, and no communication with anyone. Meanwhile, the state security and national guard officers confiscate the Justin’s camper. The officers eat food and drink beverages from the refrigerator, and they sleep in the bunks. When the Justins find out about the use and abuse of their camper, they are again outraged. The Justins are told that in Tyranny the people have to share their homes to help shelter and feed state and national guard officers. James Justin begins to cry. Jane Justin stares in anger at the guards. The journey to Tyranny becomes a nightmare.

LIST AND EXAMPLES

After reading “A Day in the Life of James and Jane Justin,” ask students to make a list of the fundamental freedoms they believe were denied James and Jane Justin. For each freedom they identify, ask them to briefly explain why they believe this is a fundamental freedom.

Ask them where these rights come from. Have them review the Bill of Rights. After reviewing this material, have them identify at least one source for each fundamental freedom denied James and Jane Justin.

Here’s an example. The Justins are denied freedom of movement; they are detained and taken into custody without being informed of any charges against them.

The Justins were imprisoned without the legal judgment of their peers. Their imprisonment violates the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution:

No person shall...be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.

You may identify more than once source for each freedom denied the Justins.