

Section 1: Television Series Information

Group Members:



Title:

- *Growing Up Young*
- The title of the series is the first thing people see, so it needed to be something that would draw the viewer's attention. Trevor Young is the main character of the series, although he is not viewed as the protagonist it gives insight into the mind of Trevor growing up. It also has a secondary meaning of children growing up in today's modern society. Stress, depression, and anxiety overwhelm some of the children today and this was designed to shed light on the problems they deal with.

Genre:

- Mystery/Horror
- The series is created to make the viewers feel concerned. Main character Trevor Young is not the protagonist but you are meant to feel bad for him. Dramatic Irony plays a massive part in this series because the audience knows what Trevor is up to but the people in the show do not.

Synopsis:

- Trevor Young, the main character is 16 years old. The show is set in today's modern-day Maine. His life growing was one that no child should have to ever endure, jumping from foster home to foster home with no real parents. This combined with constant bullying throughout school did a serious toll on Trevor. So once he got to high school he decided to kill anyone who bullied him, this was the only way to make the bullying stop. With his life experiences, he was almost "designed" to be a killer. Trevor would look up online "how to kill someone", "how to get away with murder". The show is designed to show how someone of any age is able to use the ever-evolving internet to get the information that they need. The officer in charge of all these mysterious murders is Sergeant Robert Miller, but for 2 years he has been unable to find a lead.

Section 2: Character Biography

Character Name:

- Trevor Young

Physical:

- Trevor is a 16-year-old white male with a scrawny look and average height for a boy of his age. Trevor is just an ordinary high school boy, no tattoos, he dresses like any other high schooler would, jeans and hoodies most of the time, but that is how he “hides” himself from the kids at school. He has prominent freckles on his face and bright blue eyes that are used for more of a weapon than anything. He also has naturally dark brown hair, almost black to match the secrets that he is hiding. Although he lives in Maine he is originally from Georgia so he has a mild southern accent.

Personality:

- The non-stop bullying and being tossed around foster care have left Trevor defeated and embarrassed. The main target of his bullying is due to the fact that he doesn't have parents. Something that destroys him because he sees all these other kids living happy lives with their family and he has to go home to a house full of 6 other foster kids. Deep down though Trevor has always been a good kid, getting good grades in school and respectful to his current foster parents. But there is a good boy mask covering the face of a boy who is broken and beaten down to the point where he must kill to feel better.

Life Experiences: 3 significant events in Trevor's life have been:

- **Event 1:** His mom's death was a huge part of Trevor's life. He was extremely close to his mother and when she died he was heartbroken. He always told her that she needs to get help and stop using drugs but she never listened. From that day on is what shaped Trevor as the boy he is today.
- **Event 2:** His father was incarcerated due to his mother's death. After, he became very abusive towards Trevor telling him constantly that it is his fault his mother was dead. CPS then stepped in to handle the situation, they took Trevor away and arrested his father. Due to all of these traumatic experiences Trevor blames himself for his mother's death and the incarceration of his father.
- **Event 3:** Trevor's experiences with foster homes were not good. From the moment he was basically orphaned he has been bouncing from house to house struggling to settle down in one place. Even though the places he stays are not temporary he gets a feeling of normal life, when he's at home at least.

Current Situation:

- When the series starts off Trevor is living the life he never had with his foster parents George and Darlene. He's currently living in a house with two other foster kids and George and Darlene's only child. At this moment in Trevor's life he has never felt more welcome to one of his foster families before. There was even talk of being adopted by them. But when he goes to school it is a whole new story. He is constantly bombarded by bullies, telling him he's a loser and that his parents never loved him. Something that he deals with on a day to day basis. His foster parents have tried to put him into therapy but nothing works, and with school systems in today's society, they have nothing to say about the bullying that is taking place. George and Darlene have tried everything in their power to ensure that Trevor can grow up with as normal a life as the other kids. But to no avail, there has been no change with his school life.

Section 3: Character Inspiration

Character Inspiration 1

- Lorna Morello: *Orange is the New Black*
- I selected Lorna Morello because in the beginning of the series she is living two lives. Which we learn later on is the reason that she has been incarcerated. She tells these lies about her fiance Christopher who upon Morello's release are going to get married. She tells everyone this and believe her that she really is engaged to this man. Just as Trevor is living his double life of a torn and beaten teenager, and a serial killer. He makes up these lies telling everyone that he is ok, but no thinks of him to be a murder. Just as Morello when the viewers learn that Christopher is not in fact her fiance but a man that she has been madly in love with but he doesn't feel the same. Se stalked him daily, learning every bit of information about him, again just as Trevor does whenever he is going to kill someone.

Character Inspiration 2

- James Evans Sr.: *Good Times*
- In the episode that we watched in class James has been offered a job. The job that was offered to him was going to allow him to provide for his family. Among a society where the white dominate the black this was an amazing opportunity for James. James' family is only trying to live a normal life among all the discrimination that goes on around them. Similar to Trevor as he is only trying to live a normal life amongst all the bullying that takes place. He is the weak one among all the "powerful" kids who have it better off, with a family, friends, a life. But when James is denied the job he was not going to sit back and let the white men rule him and tell him what he can and cannot do, so he stood up for himself. Something that Trevor does except with other outcomes. He takes to killing as a way to prove to himself that he is not weak, he can stand his ground against all of the bullying and be a "normal" kid.

Character Inspiration 3

- Joan Holloway: *Mad Men*
- When it comes to Joan she is a woman among powerful working men. She is constantly harassed by her male co workers who believe that they are better than her. Whenever she enters a room all the attention is on her. The men of the office one, find her attractive and make sexual remarks, and two, again she is working woman among men who think they can constantly talk down to her. Trevor is someone that believed to be worse than everyone at school, that he has no feelings or isn't even a person at all. Whenever he enters a room all eyes are on him. He sits there as people pester him with rude remarks and constant bullying. Trevor is among peers who are similar to him, these are people who should be helping him through these rough times but instead they choose to poke fun

at it. Which is what ultimately pushed him over the edge, the constant jokes about his mom made him decide to start killing people to make him feel better.

Section 4: Filming Techniques and Explanation

Technique 1: Birds Eye View 0-5 Seconds

- When the video begins we see a birds eye view shot of Trevor walking through the woods. Presumably from the sounds of crunching leaves, bare trees, and clothing that Trevor is wearing it is fall. The birds eye view shot allows the audience to “look down” at him and get an idea of the environment that he is in. Giving the viewer a wider view of the atmosphere to make them feel as they are a bird of a branch watching what Trevor is doing, outside of his awareness.

Technique 2: Ambient Noise 27-36 Seconds

- At the end of the trailer there is a shot of Trevor looking up at the person hanging from the tree, the boy that he killed. As Trevor looks at the body hanging it was meant to give the effect that he is making sure the job is done. When he walks off there is the sound of leaves crunching and then the screen goes black. The leaves continue to crunch and then the title appears on screen. This was used to show that Trevor is walking off, the leaves get quieter and quieter as he gets farther away from where the camera was. It also allows the audience to feel as they are there as well, most people have heard the sound of leaves crunching, it puts them in the environment to establish the connection to the wilderness and helplessness.

Technique 3: Low Angle Shot 17 Seconds

- In this shot we see Trevor standing over the boy that he is going to kill. After following him through the woods Trevor finally catches him. The camera pans around the area in which he was walking and quickly turns to the left to find Trevor standing over this helpless boy. Even though Trevor is a small boy this shot shows that the boy who is being followed is scared, alone and helpless, Trevor has the obvious power here.