

Tekst 5 Disoriented Minds

The following text is the opening passage of the novel Disoriented Minds by British writer Minette Walters.

One

*Colliton Park, Highdown, Bournemouth
Monday, 4 May 1970, 1.30 p.m.*

- 1 IT WASN'T MUCH of a park, barely half an acre of wilted grass off Colliton Way where local people walked their dogs in the mornings and evenings. During the day it was hardly frequented at all, except by truants who hung around the trees that lined the fences. The police rarely visited it and anyway, there was a hundred yards of open space between the only entrance and the offenders. In the time it took two overweight coppers to lumber across, the teens were long gone, vaulting the low fences into the gardens that formed the rear perimeter. As complaints came in thick and fast from homeowners whenever this happened, the police, preferring an easy life, tended to leave the youngsters alone.
- 2 The logic ran that while they were in the park they weren't thieving, and it was better to turn a blind eye and concentrate official efforts in the city centre. To the cynical police mind, truancy came low on their list of criminal behaviour.
- 3 Situated at the poorer end of Highdown, Colliton Way had little going for it. Unemployment was high, school attendance poor, and the proposed new buildings on the acres of waste ground behind it, which had promised jobs and houses, had faltered to a halt. The only site under construction was the Brackham & Wright tool factory, which was a planned replacement for the present, antiquated building in Glazeborough Road. This was no consolation to its workers, many of whom lived in Colliton Way, because up-to-date technology and automation always brought redundancies.
- 4 The most persistent truants were three boys. They were charismatic and generous as long as their leadership wasn't challenged, dangerously violent when it was. It made them a magnet for unhappy children who misinterpreted generosity for affection and cruelty for regard, and none of the children understood how damaged the boys were. How could they, when the boys didn't know themselves? Barely able to read or write, only interested in immediate gratification and with no rein over their aggressive impulses, they thought they were in control of their lives.
- 5 That May Monday followed the aimless pattern of the many before. So entrenched was the boys' truancy that their mothers no longer bothered to get them out of bed. Better to let sleeping dogs lie, was the women's thinking, than face a beating because their overgrown sons were angry at being woken. The boys were incapable of getting up. None of them came home before the early hours – if they came home at all – and they were always so drunk their sleep was stupor. All three mothers had asked for them to be taken into care at one time or another, but their resolve had never lasted very long. Fear of reprisal, and misguided love for their absent firstborns, had always effected a change of mind. It might have been different if there had been men around, but there weren't, so the women did what their sons told them.

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- “It wasn’t ... youngsters alone.” (alinea 1)
- 2p **16** Welke *twee* redenen had de politie volgens alinea 1 om de spijbelaars van Colliton Park met rust te laten?
- 1p **17** ■ How could paragraph 2 also begin?
- A For example, the logic ran...
 - B However, the logic ran...
 - C Moreover, the logic ran...
- 3p **18** Geef voor elk van de onderstaande beweringen met betrekking tot de drie voornaamste spijbelaars aan of deze wel of niet overeenkomt met de inhoud van de alinea’s 3-5.
- 1 Ze hangen rond in een park in een troosteloze omgeving.
 - 2 Er zullen binnenkort banen genoeg voor hen zijn in hun eigen wijk.
 - 3 Bepaalde kinderen zoeken om de verkeerde redenen hun gezelschap.
 - 4 Ze beseffen dat het misschien slecht met hen afloopt.
 - 5 Ze gaan ’s nachts uit stelen om hun drinkgewoonte te kunnen betalen.
 - 6 Alleen hun vaders hebben hen enigszins onder controle.
- Noteer het nummer van elke bewering, gevolgd door “wel” of “niet”.