

This American Life Podcast | AoW #3

“Episode 492: Dr. Gilmer & Mr. Hyde”

<http://tinyurl.com/aow3aplang>

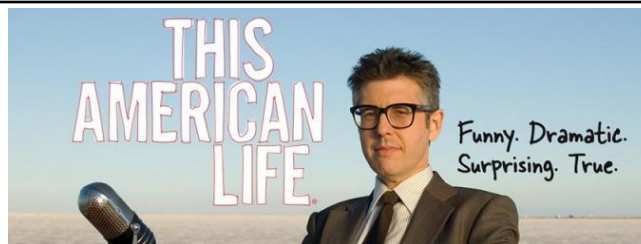
Directions: Listen to the podcast from NPR’s “This American Life” entitled, “Dr. Gilmer and Mr. Hyde.” The podcast can be found on the class website or via the link above. You can download it to your phone or computer. Answer questions one through ten as your annotations. The episode describes the case of a man named Vince Gilmer who was convicted of murdering his father. Is Vince is a cold blooded murder or something less sinister? Listen and decide.

Warning: Podcast contains some grim, violent details, & explicit language detailing the crime. Speak with Ms. T if you have questions or concerns and an alternate AoW will be given.

1. Based on the title of the episode, “Dr. Gilmer & Mr. Hyde,” what can you predict about the episode and its content or themes?
2. Who is Dr. Benjamin Gilmer? What is ironic about his new position at the hospital?
3. Describe Dr. Vince Gilmer. Why did he lose his position at the hospital? How did his patients describe him?
4. Explain the “strange” events leading up to the murder.
5. How did Vince act post his father’s murder?
6. What evidence is there to support that the murder was premeditated?
7. Describe Vince’s trial. What was the result?
8. How does Koenig describe Vince from her interview with him?
9. What are the characteristics of Huntington’s Disease? How does Vince’s behavior fit symptoms of the disease?
10. After the conclusion of the episode, what is the “verdict” on Vince’s case? Do you agree? Explain.

Possible Response Questions:

- React to the episode. Choose a moment or quote from the episode and respond to it.
- In your opinion, did the justice system fail Vince Gilmer? Explain.
- What facts, if any, should be taken into consideration when charging and trying someone accused a crime? Consider mental health, intellectual ability, socioeconomic status, history of abuse, etc.



Ira Glass, host & creator

Sarah Koenig, narrator & reporter