



# EXTENSION

Name: .....

**1** The words below appear in the text in Exercise 2. Find the words and guess their meanings. Use a dictionary to check your guesses.

- 1. regularly .....
- 2. poor .....
- 3. leaders .....
- 4. self-confidence .....

**2** Read the text and answer the questions.

### Criminals Read Books

Mitchell Rouse was arrested for taking drugs. A judge found him guilty of the crime, but surprisingly, Rouse didn't receive a prison sentence. The judge sent him to read instead. Rouse participated in a special programme called Changing Lives Through Literature. This programme helps criminals change their lives through reading books.

Participants in the programme read books and meet regularly in groups to talk about them. For criminals, the reading is not just a fun hobby. It's a kind of therapy. It teaches them important skills and helps them learn about themselves and others. "It changed the way I look at life," says Rouse.

The books help the criminals because they are connected to their lives. For example, some groups read *Of Mice and Men*, about two poor young men looking for jobs. Many of the criminals come from poor families too, so they can understand the characters. In the group meetings, these criminals share their feelings about being poor. They also look at the characters' mistakes and talk about how they can do things differently in their lives. The group leaders, mostly teachers, make sure the criminals feel comfortable talking about their ideas. This gives the criminals self-confidence.

Robert Waxler, an English teacher, started Changing Lives Through Literature in 1991 with his friend, Judge Robert Kane. Their first reading group was for eight criminals. Since then, the programme has grown and become very successful. In the US state of Texas, for example, about 600 participants have completed the programme and only 6% of them have returned to crime. When criminals leave prison, about 60% of them continue to commit crime.

Today, Rouse doesn't take drugs and he has got a good job. He is even thinking about studying philosophy at university. For him, the reading group was a "miracle". Literature, it seems, can change lives.

- 1. Why did the police arrest Mitchell Rouse?  
.....
- 2. What do the participants in reading groups do? Name two things.  
.....  
.....
- 3. What do the participants learn from the reading group? Name two things.  
.....  
.....
- 4. How are the criminals and the characters in *Of Mice and Men* similar?  
.....
- 5. How do we know Changing Lives Through Literature works?  
.....

**3** Complete the sentences about the text with the verbs below.  
 Use the Present Simple Passive or Past Simple Passive affirmative.  
 Then tick (✓) the sentences T (true) or F (false) according to the text.

*help ♦ find ♦ give ♦ start ♦ choose*

	T	F
1. Rouse ..... guilty of a crime.	.....	.....
2. Rouse ..... a prison sentence.	.....	.....
3. Books connected to the criminals' lives ..... for the groups.	.....	.....
4. Changing Lives Through Literature ..... by two literature teachers.	.....	.....
5. Rouse ..... by Changing Lives Through Literature.	.....	.....

**4** Write a blog entry by Mitchell Rouse, describing his experience in Changing Lives Through Literature.