

The Wave

Pre Reading

What were the subjects told of the purpose of the experiment? What was the real one?

The subjects were told that the purpose of the subject is to find out how effective is learning with punishments. The real purpose was to see whether an authority can cause a person (a grown up male) to do something normally his conscience won't let him do. In the experiment the action was inflicting great pain on another human being.

Who were the subjects?

The subjects were males in the ages of 20-50 residing in the New Haven area. They were summoned with a newspaper article and were asked to divide into two groups of learners and teachers. In all experiments the learner was never someone from outside but a confederate who helped carry out the experiment. The teachers were from various jobs and of different education; some were doctors while some never finished high school.

What do the subjects do?

The subjects were asked to read a pair of words every time or ask a few multiple choice questions. The pretend learner had to answer these, and whenever he chose wrongly they had to inflict an electric shock upon him.

What did psychiatrists predict subjects would do?

Psychiatrists and psychologists predicted that only a few people would agree to participate in such a horrible act. But the experiment claims otherwise- more than 50% of all participants went through the experiment until they were inflicting 450 volts on the learner. Some of them made sure that the responsibility on whatever happens to the learner is not on them, and some went through it just by someone telling them their actions were very important to the experiment.

What conclusions can we draw from the experiment?

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The research found out that most humans can be commanded to do whatever it is a specific person with some authority may tell them to do. And just as the video finished, “the findings here are from an experiment; just imagine the power a whole government has on people”.

Sociograms - Ch. 1-3

Laurie Saunders:

Physical Appearance:

- Laurie is a pretty girl
- Used to smoke

Behavior & Actions:

- Clever and understanding
- Mature
- Editor in chief of the school newspaper

Character’s Actions towards Others:

- Kind
- Respecting

Reactions of others to the Character:

- Lovable
- Respected by teachers and friends.

Speech & Dialogue:

- Speaks in a mature way

Ben Ross:

Physical Appearance:

- Young

Behavior & Actions:

- History teacher at Gordon High
- Teaches about the holocaust in the beginning of the book

Character’s Actions towards Others:

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- He wants every single student to engage in discussions and does his best to achieve that.
- Interacts with his pupils after school.

Reactions of others to the Character:

- He is a very nice teacher
- Likable by his students

Speech & Dialogue:

- Enthusiastic and interesting
- Gets his students' attention

David Collins:

Physical Appearance:

- Nice looking
- Likable by girls in his grade

Behavior & Actions:

- Captain of the school's football team
- Laurie's boyfriend

Character's Actions towards Others:

- Very respecting
- Loves Laurie and this help him realize his mistakes later in the book...

Reactions of others to the Character:

- Many girls like him.
- Mr. Ross respects him.
- Other boys in the grade obey him as their football captain and look up at him.

Speech & Dialogue:

- A leader way of speech
- Enthusiastic and energetic

Robert Billings:

Physical Appearance:

- Untidy

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- Bored and not very clever

Behavior & Actions:

- Does not engage in any social activity
- Does not take part in lessons

Character's Actions towards Others:

- A very naïve person.
- Gave up instead of living up to the high bar his brother left him.
- Weak and shy

Reactions of others to the Character:

- Most people won't even know Robert exists.
- Those who do know him are mean and dishonorable towards him.

Speech & Dialogue:

- Tired and uninterested
- Gets away from this sort of human interaction.

Chapter 4:

1. Ben Ross was intrigued by the students' questions about how the Nazi party gained so much power. This bothered him and he wanted to find an answer for how it happened.
2. In order to answer his questions Mr. Ross decided on firstly learning and reading as much as he can about the topic, then he begins his experiment on the students.
3. A) When Ben was in graduate school he was absorbed in American Indians that he almost forgot his life completely.
B) Christy once taught him how to play bridge, and he didn't stop playing it until he won some local tournament and ran out of worthy competitors.

Chapter 5:

1. Strength is achieved via discipline. That is the first main idea in Mr. Ross's teaching.
2. Most of the students went with him and did precisely what they were told. Laurie got a bit confused but David helped her with it. After class David feels something is wrong, but he can't really put his finger on it.

Chapter 6:

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1. The Wave is the symbol of the community Mr. Ross created. It resembles movement, direction and impact. Mr. Ross added strength through community to explain the importance of them sticking together and having some sort of organization (The Wave).
2. I answered it through one...
3. David wants to present the Wave to his team. He thinks it will help his team win much more and affect the overall mood that is upon the team's members.

Chapter 7:

1. Laurie told her parents about the past two days at school. Her parents take two different sides. Her mom is against it and thinks it is too militaristic. On the other hand her dad says whatever it is makes students learn is terrific. Both are surprised to find out David stayed home to study after all.
2. Mr. Ross likes the new way his class behaves. They all behave nicely and do their homework. He notices it is a big thing and he also feels himself getting carried away with them.

Chapter 8:

1. David and Laurie argued about The Wave, and whether it is good or bad. David was mad when he heard Laurie's mom wasn't very happy with it, and even angrier when he found out she thinks Mr. Ross manipulates them.
2. A) A membership card is given to anyone who is a part of the wave.
B) If one has an X on the back of his/her membership card, he/her will be a monitor. Meaning they have to report to Ben Ross whoever it is they see disobeying The Wave's rules.
3. In Laurie's words she found the lesson "weird". She is not sure whether she likes the whole idea or not. She surely doesn't even think the whole monitor idea is for real. At first she thinks Brian is really threatening her with a report to Mr. Ross.
4. The Wave made Robert suddenly talk and take part in their lunch conversation. That was out of the normal way. Brian welcomed him, and he became a part of their groups.

Chapter 9:

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1. The Wave dramatically changes Mr. Ross's class. Suddenly everyone comes ready to class with all their readings done, and many people participate in the question and answer style Ben created. On one hand, Mr. Ross is delighted to know everyone learns and do their best, and on the other he is not sure whether it is a good thing...
2. The Grapevine's writers were out of ideas, when someone suggested they write on The Wave. Laurie agrees to write about it since she is Mr. Ross's class, but she also asks them to find out as much as they can about what people think of The Wave.
3. Laurie's mom shared with Laurie what she heard of Robert and his sudden personality change. She says it seems as if he joined some sort of cult, and it is a bit worrying to compare The Wave to a cult, since Laurie has so many friends and people she knows who are a part of it.

Chapter 10:

1. At first Mr. Ross thought about what his next plans would be about the Wave and other personal ideas. Then he caught himself and made sure he understood this was only a classroom experiment, and that he is not supposed to take the students anywhere. He is also very surprised to find out kids from different grades have joined and are taking part in The Wave.
2. Mr. Owens is not sure what to think about The Wave. On one hand, he trusts Ben completely and has never had anything of the sort in his school. On the other hand he doesn't like the saluting and membership cards. Mr. Ross promised him to not let the experiment get him too carried away.

Chapter 11:

4. The anonymous letter told the story of a kid who described The Wave from his point of view. The kid said he doesn't understand what so special about The Wave. When he was told that it might be too late to join later, he wants to understand too late for what?
5. Robert decided Ben needed a body guard and he offered himself.
6. We can't be sure about whether Ben wanted to be the leader of The Wave or not. But we can surely see that he understands it is important for his experiment to have a

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leader. How does he feel towards the experiment? It isn't discussed so much in this chapter, but still he gets carried away and does it almost automatically. He encourages himself to become the "ultimate-leader" of The Wave.

Chapter 12:

3. Laurie doesn't like the whole idea of The Wave. She is scared of it, and is unsure about how good it is for the students in the school. She saw a few things which convinced her not to go: the anonymous letter and the fighting just before everyone entered the gym.
4. David doesn't like the way Laurie respects The Wave. He blames her for being selfish, and says that that is the main reason for which she doesn't like The Wave and doesn't want to take part in it. The relationship between the two gets a bit intense.
5. Alex doesn't like the idea of The Wave either and he says no one can make him join it if he doesn't want to do so.
6. Laurie's father tells her that a Jewish boy was beaten up for not joining The Wave. He thinks "this whole Wave thing is getting a bit out of hand".
7. He compares those who do not take part in the rally to Anne Frank. Anne Frank was Jewish, and they were discriminated in the holocaust. In The Wave those who do not take part of it are going to be left out and disliked by those who do take part in this big organization/group.

Chapter 13:

4. Laurie and Brad argued about The Wave salute. Brad insisted she did the salute if she wanted to enter the stands, but Laurie didn't want to.
5. The Grapevine staff decided to write about The Wave in their coming issue. They all think it doesn't do any good to the school, and they made sure to put in the letter by the anonymous junior, and the horrible act towards the Jewish boy.

Chapter 14:

3. Amy told Laurie she can't publish the editorial she wrote in the Grapevine. She said she was always competing with her and always tried to keep up with Laurie's grades, having a boyfriend, and many other things which made Laurie the "perfect girl".

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4. Ben Ross understood his experiment has gone too far, and he doesn't like it. He feels he is the one to blame, and is very worried what the next thing caused by The Wave would be.
5. Robert thinks Laurie's attitude is dangerous to The Wave, and that she should be stopped from writing her views on paper. He thinks it could make people see the wrong things in The Wave and make them want to leave, which he clearly does not want to happen.

Chapter 15:

5. Christy Ross thinks The Wave has gone too far. She tells her husband, Ben, but he insists on letting it go on for a little while. She tells him students have been skipping her classes to go into his, and that other teachers in the school think he has gone too far...
6. People are very interested in The Wave. Some are happy to see this "other side" of The Wave, and some hate Laurie completely so they take it to see what she has written. In both ways that Grapevine issue has been a great blow on the Wave and its stability.
7. She saw the word "Enemy" painted in red letters when she came to her locker.
8. Laurie heard footsteps after her, and no matter how hard she ran they were always after her. This really scared her and made her run all the way out, only outside did she feel any safer...
9. David tried to convince Laurie to stop writing things against The Wave. He says it doesn't do any good and it only harms her. He becomes a bit violent when he grabs when of her arms, and then the second. When he gets really angry, he throws her on the grass. This is a major point in which we see David changing his opinion on The Wave.
10. David suddenly realizes what he has done. He understands he hurt someone he loved, just for the sake of The Wave's good name. He understood he was almost possessed- he has gone too far.
11. Christy asked her husband to stop The Wave the next day. She told him that even if this experiment is a success from his point of view, parents might not let their kids go into his class anymore. It would ruin his reputation as a good teacher, and that is only after two years in Gordon High.

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12. Ben knew Christy is right. He understood The Wave must come to an end, he just doesn't know how to do it. At some point he says he has an idea, but doesn't share it with her, as if it is supposed to be a surprise.
13. Laurie Saunders and David Collins came to see Mr. Ross. They told him The Wave has gotten out of hand. It scares people so they can't talk about it, and it also scares them so much they can't even bear the idea of not joining it- the outcomes are frightening. David also tells him what he did to Laurie an hour or so beforehand, he explains he did what he did because of the power The Wave has over him.

Chapter 16:

4. Mr. Owens told him the whole "Wave thing" is making Gordon High look very bad. He agrees on giving him a whole day to end it, and if he doesn't- he will have to resign from his job as a history teacher.
5. Ben announces in class that that evening at 17:00 there is Wave meeting in the auditorium. He says the reason is that The Wave is not something only in Gordon High, it's all around the country. He wants to students to meet their leader and to understand what a big mission they got on their shoulders.
6. Right after the announcement Laurie and David got to their legs and tried talking to their classroom mates. They tried to explain this was going too far and that they should think for themselves and see what is wrong with The Wave.
7. Laurie realized that the Wave started right after their lesson about the Nazi camps and how the Germans seemed to completely ignore them. She sees a connection between the two groups- the Nazism and The Wave.

Chapter 17:

3. Ben thought it is amazing how big the Wave has gotten and how disciplined everyone in it are.
4. The atmosphere was very tense. No one knew what to expect, and one question through everyone's minds- what are they supposed to do? They looked for their leader,

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and this answered one of Ben's questions. He found it was a human's natural will to find his/her own leader to make decisions for them.

5. Ben Ross told the members of The Wave to look at what they have done and see how far they went. He told them that if there was a leader to their organization his name would be Adolf Hitler. Mr. Ross said this is a lesson he intended was to show them how the Nazis obeyed Hitler so blindly. He said he owes them an apology and that he is very sorry he let it go out of hand. In the very end he saw Robert crying and asked him to come and "have a bit" with him. He said they have some things to talk about...

No More LOTS :P