

Leaving Bill

by Gaynor Hill

1.) Think about what violence means to you.

Where is the starting point for violence?

What's your definition of violence?

Does it depend on the situation?



Then reflect if you consider the following statements as “**very violent**” or “**very peaceful**”. Add them where you think they belong on the graph below.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Parents yelling at each other | 6. You lock the dog out of the house without dinner |
| 2. A man hitting a woman | 7. A woman hitting a man |
| 3. Someone touches your hair after you have asked them not to | 8. A friend shares their lunch with you |
| 4. Someone calls you “stupid” | 9. Someone you don't know follows you home every day |
| 5. Your friend gives you a hug | |

very peaceful

very violent

Now discuss the results of your graph with a partner.

Did you put the statements on the same end of the spectrum?

Which statements do you consider very violent and why?

2.) Look at the title of the Short Story “**Leaving Bill**” and take a guess at the questions:


- Who is Bill?
- Who is leaving Bill?
- Why is that person leaving Bill?

3.) Read the story as far as p. 3.

Now look at these words and try to find **synonyms** for them in the text and underline them. Also classify their word category (Adjective, Adverb, Noun, Verb), and come up with one **Antonym** for each word. (You can use a dictionary or a partner for help)

- dependable/stable:
- tender:
- quivering/shaking:
- clutch:
- carefully:
- disinterest:
- unexceptional:
- insufficient:
- sensuous:
- pounding:
- rude:
- unstable/moody:
- relaxation:

4.) Read the story as far as the first paragraph of p. 5.

Pay attention to what Truda sees and describes when she returns home. What has happened to Bill? Continue the story by guessing what has happened to Bill. Write about 200 words. 

Then finish reading the story and check if your guesses were right.

5.) Think of other ways in which Truda could’ve escaped from her husband. To whom could she have talked? What could she have done? Where could she have gotten help?

Write a letter to Truda, giving her advice on how to solve the problem with her husband. You can use the internet to look up organisations, events, etc. that you could suggest to Truda.

Write about **250 words**.