

"Examination Day" by Henry Slesar is a dystopian science fiction short story that explores a society where intelligence and conformity are highly valued. "Examination Day" serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of extreme conformity, the suppression of individuality, and the consequences of valuing intelligence above all other human qualities. "Examination Day" delves into themes of societal control, authoritarianism, and the dehumanizing effects of valuing intellect over individuality. The story reveals the chilling reality of a world where intellectual prowess is not celebrated but feared, leading to the tragic end of promising young minds. Through the character of Dickie, the reader witnesses the innocence of a young boy who innocently takes the test, unaware of the grave consequences awaiting him. The story follows a young boy named Dickie Jordan who is preparing for his government-mandated intelligence test on his twelfth birthday. The story ends with Dickie being taken away by government officials, and his parents accepting the reality of their society's ruthless ways.