# Article of the Week #7

# “Charles Ramsey: I’m no hero in freeing of captive women”

**Student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Instructions: COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS AND MARGIN NOTES using the CLOSE reading strategies practiced in class. This requires reading of the article three times.**

**Step 1: Number** the paragraphs. **Skim** the article using these symbols as you read:

**(+)** agree, **(-)** disagree, **(\*)** important, **(!)** surprising, **(?)** wondering

**Step 2: Read** the article **carefully** and **make notes in the margin**.

Notes should include:

* Comments that show that you **understand** the article. (A summary or statement of the main idea of important sections may serve this purpose.)
* Questions you have that show what you are **wondering** about as you read.
* Notes that differentiate between **fact** and **opinion**.
* Observations about how the **writer’s strategies** (organization, word choice, perspective, support) and choices affect the article.

**Step 3:** A **final quick read** noting anything you may have missed during the first two reads.

Your **margin notes** are part of your score for this assessment. Answer the questions carefully in **complete sentences** unless otherwise instructed.

**Charles Ramsey: I’m no hero in freeing of captive women**

Source: Josh Levs, Phil Gast, and Steve Almasy/ *CNN*/ May 9, 2013

**(CNN)** -- Within hours of becoming a national hero, a viral video star and the [top topic on Twitter](https://twitter.com/search?q=%22Charles%20Ramsey%22&src=tren), Charles Ramsey talked about having trouble getting sleep.

It wasn't because of all the excitement that followed his knocking down a Cleveland neighbor's door, freeing [three women and a girl who police say were held hostage for years](http://www.cnn.com/2013/05/07/us/ohio-missing-women-found/index.html).

Instead, Ramsey told CNN's Anderson Cooper on Tuesday, it was about knowing he had lived for a year near the captive women on the city's West Side.

"Up until yesterday the only thing that kept me from losing sleep was the lack of money," the restaurant dishwasher said on "Anderson Cooper 360."

"I could have done this last year, not this hero stuff," said Ramsey. "Just do the right thing."

Ramsey recounted Monday night's drama, when he heard a girl scream "like a car had hit a kid."

He ran from his living room, clutching a half-eaten McDonald's Big Mac, to the house and helped free a woman identified as Amanda Berry.

"Amanda said, 'I've been trapped in here. He won't let me out. It's me and my baby."

Ramsey and a man named Angel Cordero broke down the door, [CNN affiliate WEWS](http://www.newsnet5.com/dpp/news/local_news/cleveland_metro/cleveland-man-who-found-missing-woman-amanda-berry-i-thought-that-girl-was-dead) reported in anearlier interview heard around the world.

Ramsey told CNN he had never seen Berry before Monday, and at first, he could not place the name.

"Berry didn't register with me until I was on the phone, like wait a minute, I thought this girl was dead."

"She's like, 'This (expletive) kidnapped me and my daughter,'" he told the 911 operator, according to WEWS.

After police arrived, Berry explained there were other women inside. When police came out with them, Ramsey told the station, "it was astonishing."

***Notes on my thoughts, reactions, and questions as I read:***

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Ramsey told the station, "it was astonishing."

Berry was last seen after finishing her shift at a Burger King in Cleveland in 2003 on the eve of her 17th birthday.

The other two women are Georgina "Gina" DeJesus, who disappeared at age 14 in 2004, and Michelle Knight, who vanished in August 2002, at age 21, according to police.

Ramsey told CNN he is no hero and should not receive any reward.

While Ramsey's quick action in the largely rundown neighborhood made him a hero, his colorful descriptionsto WEWS helped make him dream fodder for the Twitterverse.

Explaining that he had no idea Ariel Castro, his neighbor, may have had other people inside his home, Ramsey said, "I've been here a year. You see where I'm coming from? I barbecue with this dude. We eat ribs and whatnot and listen to salsa music...

"He just comes out to his backyard, plays with the dogs, tinkers with his cars and motorcycles, goes back in the house. So he's somebody you look, then look away. He's not doing anything but the average stuff. You see what I'm saying? There's nothing exciting about him. Well, until today."

He added, "I knew something was wrong when a little, pretty white girl ran into a black man's arms. Something is wrong here. Dead giveaway."

In one of the top tweets about Ramsey, [comedian Patton Oswalt wrote](https://twitter.com/pattonoswalt/status/331657433418182656), "Dear Charles Ramsey: I am not a little pretty white girl, but I totally want to run into your black arms. #hero."

Hodge's restaurant in Cleveland [posted a message](http://hodgescleveland.com/)on Facebook saying, "we're extremely proud of our employee Charles Ramsey for not turning his back on the young women. He's a true Cleveland hero. Our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with the women, their families and their friends."

Restaurant owner Chris Hodgson told CNN that Ramsey goes above and beyond in his duties.

"You give him something to do, and he'll do more," he said. "We always look forward to seeing him, because you know he's gonna bring a smile to your face."

Hodgson said people have offered to raise money for Ramsey, but the employee would end up giving it to the victims and their families.

The company is working with other restaurants to plan fund-raisers for the families, Hodgson said.

For its part, McDonald's Corp., on its Twitter account Tuesday, said, "Way to go Charles Ramsey -- we'll be in touch."

Despite his assertions, Ramsey and Berry were praised as heroes by John Walsh, former host of TV's "America's Most Wanted."

At an awards dinner for the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, Walsh said he called Ramsey on Tuesday to tell him that.

"You are the guy who decided in 30 seconds to go up and spring a woman from a house of hell that she's been in and was desperate to get out that door with her 6-year-old daughter," Walsh recalled saying.

Ramsey said he was raised to help women in distress, said Walsh.

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**Comprehension questions – answers may be in phrases.**

1. *What fast food item was Charles Ramsey eating when he found Amanda Berry?*
2. *Who helped Ramsey break down the door to the house where the girls were trapped?*
3. *List the names of the women who were kidnapped, the year each was kidnapped, and the age they were.*
4. *Name the comedian that was mentioned in the article. What hashtag did he use to describe Ramsey?*

**Answer each question in one of more complete sentences.**

1. *Summarize the article in six sentences or less.*
2. *Why do you think Ramsey was the “top topic on Twitter?*
3. *Before he rescued the young women, what kept Charles Ramsey up at night? What kept him up after he rescued the young women?*

*xplain why Charles Ramsey is a hero. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (Don’t forget* ***TAG*** *and* ***ICE****!)*

*Why was it difficult for Ramsey to believe that his neighbor was capable of such terrible crimes? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (Don’t forget* ***TAG*** *and* ***ICE****!)*

*Create a bibliographic entry/MLA citation of this article (use your reference book for help). Don’t forget the* ***HANGING INDENT!***

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