**On The Sidewalk Bleeding**

**Short Story**

**How can friendship sometimes be destructive or harmful? How can we recognize this? What do you *need* in a friend? Why do we sometimes seek out negative friendships?**

**Before Reading**

* To be a friend, “you should remember that we are human magnets; that like attracts like, and that what we give, we get” but sometimes we seek out friends who can have a negative or bad influence on us.
* Consider Andy’s choice of “friends” and the consequences of their friendship.
* Look at the image on p. 36. What does the image suggest about the story?

**During Reading**

* Read the opening paragraph. What information does the writer give in this paragraph and what information does he withhold in his opening three sentences. Why do you think he makes these choices?
* Use the graphic organizer to track the time, action, and thoughts presented in the story using a chart to summarize and organize your ideas and understanding.

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| **Action** | **Narrator** | **Andy’s Thoughts and Feelings** |
| Past Action |  |  |
| Present Action |  |  |

**After Reading**

* Why did Andy join a gang and why does no one find Andy or help him?
* What caused him to reject them before his death?
* What conclusion can you draw from the police officer’s comment at the end of the story? How did this technique make the story believable?