

## Reading Zone 2

Read the following passage and answer the questions. You can find the answers on page 235.

On Tuesday, May 22, 1980, a man named Henry Hill did what seemed to him the only sensible thing to do: He decided to cease to exist. He was in the Nassau County jail, facing a life sentence in a massive narcotics conspiracy. The federal prosecutors were asking him about his role in the \$6 million Lufthansa German Airlines robbery, the largest successful cash robbery in American history. The New York City police were in line behind the feds to ask him about the ten murders that followed the Lufthansa heist. The Justice Department wanted to talk to him about his connection with a murder that also involved Michele Sindona, the convicted Italian financier. The Organized Crime Strike Force wanted to know about the Boston College basketball players he had bribed in a point-shaving scheme. Treasury agents were looking for the crates of automatic weapons and Claymore mines he had stolen from a Connecticut armory. The Brooklyn district attorney's office wanted information about a body they had found in a refrigeration truck, which was frozen so stiff it needed two days to thaw before the medical examiner could perform an autopsy.

When Henry Hill had been arrested only three weeks earlier, it hadn't been big news. There were no front-page stories in the newspapers and no segments on the evening news. His arrest was just another of dozens of the slightly exaggerated multimillion-dollar drug busts that police make annually in their search for paragraphs of praise. But the arrest of Henry Hill was a prize beyond measure. Hill had grown up in the mob. He was only a mechanic, but he knew everything. He knew how it worked. He knew who oiled the machinery. He knew, literally, where the bodies were buried. If he talked, the police knew that Henry Hill could give them the key to dozens of indictments and convictions. And even if he didn't talk, Henry Hill knew that his own friends would kill him just as they had killed nearly everyone who had been involved in the Lufthansa

robbery. In jail Henry heard the news: His own protector, Paul Vario, the seventy-year-old mob chief in whose house Henry had been raised from childhood, was through with him; and James “Jimmy the Gent” Burke, Henry’s closest friend, his confidant and partner, the man he had been scheming and hustling with since he was thirteen years old, was planning to murder him.

Under the circumstances, Henry made his decision: He became part of the Justice Department’s Federal Witness Protection Program. His wife, Karen, and their children, Judy, fifteen, and Ruth, twelve, ceased to exist along with him. They were given new identities. It should be said that it was slightly easier for Henry Hill to cease to exist than it might have been for the average citizen, since the actual evidence of Hill’s existence was extraordinarily slim. His home was apparently owned by his mother-in-law. His car was registered in his wife’s name. His Social Security cards and driver’s licenses—he had several of each—were forged and made out of fictitious names. He had never voted and never paid taxes. He had never even flown on an airplane using a ticket made out in his own name. In fact, one of the only pieces of documentary evidence that proved without doubt that Henry Hill had lived—besides his birth certificate—was his yellow sheet, the police record of arrests he had begun as a teenage apprentice to the mob.

1. According to the passage, Henry Hill’s arrest was described by police as
  - (A) slightly exaggerated
  - (B) big news
  - (C) just another drug bust
  - (D) a “prize beyond measure”
  - (E) the beginning of the end for the Mafia in the United States

2. Why was Hill's arrest so important?
- (A) Hill's friends and colleagues were scheming to kill him.
  - (B) He had deep-frozen a body.
  - (C) It allowed him to join the Witness Protection Program.
  - (D) He had information on many unsolved crimes.
  - (E) He was the head of a major organized crime empire.
3. Why was it so easy for Hill to "disappear"?
- (A) His mother-in-law bought his house.
  - (B) There was little legal evidence of his existence.
  - (C) His family came with him.
  - (D) He had a long "yellow sheet."
  - (E) He had many underworld contacts.
4. Which best describes Hill's position in the mob?
- (A) Powerful and knowledgeable
  - (B) Low but powerful
  - (C) Low but knowledgeable
  - (D) High and knowledgeable
  - (E) A relative of Paul Vario
5. According to the passage, Paul Vario
- (A) was murdered by Henry Hill
  - (B) had ten people murdered following the Lufthansa crime
  - (C) raised Henry Hill
  - (D) knew Henry from the age of thirteen
  - (E) headed an international crime family