[Assignment: Compose a short story which reflects the concept of repression. Your story may be straight narration with the point that it makes about oppression up front or you may choose to construct a piece in which the characters are symbols or the story is allegorical.]

(1) At 1:03 a.m. July 7, 1973, a Saturday morning, life begins. Two baby boys enter into the luminous glare of the delivery room. Both find the loving arms of mothers. In these early moments, both appear equal. Then, beyond the delivery room doors, the worlds divide. One world is peaceful and calm, a worried father waiting in an empty lounge. The other world is noisy and chaotic, halls crowded with screaming sick. Kevin arrives in a small, friendly community while Sean enters into the nightmare of the big city.

(2) Kevin’s father drives the family home. The neighborhood is filled with small, well-kept houses and yards. As they stop in front of a house similar to the others, neighbors come to see the newest addition. Everyone laughs and smiles. Everyone is happy.

(3) Sean’s aunt arrives at the hospital in a rusty ’64 Plymouth to pick up her sister and nephew. They crowd into the front seat with one of the family’s five other children and depart. They travel silently, ignoring the scenery. Nothing ever changes for the better. The houses and buildings just become more run-down and the graffiti worse. They pull up in front of a house as dilapidated as the rest. As the wave of children and mothers gush out of the car, a voice yells from across the street, "Not another one!" The voice, though ignored, continues yelling. Sean enters his home.

(4) As Kevin grows up, his father carries on the role of the traditional "Dad." He plays games with his son, tells him his childhood stories, takes him fishing and teaches him right from wrong. They are pals. Kevin wants to be just like his father.

(5) In fourth grade, Kevin’s chance comes. On the playground a boy calls him a name. Remembering one of his father’s stories about a fight, Kevin challenges the boy. Before the fight breaks up, Kevin is the proud owner of a "shiner" just like Pop. Walking home though, he remembers the ending of his father’s story, how he learned fighting was not the answer. He realizes his father had told him the story so he would not have to learn the same lesson. Kevin drags his feet on the rest of the walk not feeling proud but guilty instead.

(6) Sean grows up playing with his cousins and friends on the streets. Sometimes they "find" a basketball and go down to the playground courts to play. When he stays late, Sean sees the men in his neighborhood do what they call "business" in their fancy suits. Sean watches all of their money in awe. Sometimes they give him a few dollars and tell him to come see them when he is older. One time a man gives Sean a knife "to learn how to use." The next week a boy at school makes fun of Sean’s little sister. Sean takes out his blade and stabs at the boy. Blood drenches the
boy's upper arm. Sean's fourth grade teacher stops what has already ended. Sean is in trouble, but he smiles with pride in his victory, knowing the men would be pleased.

(7) High school brings untested waters for Kevin. He joins several sports and makes new, popular friends with whom he parties every weekend. On his fifteenth birthday, his friends take him to the usual party where everyone gets exceptionally drunk. When Kevin arrives home, his father confronts him. One of Kevin's friends died in a drunk driving accident that night. Kevin's world is permanently altered. He will never forget. The town talks of nothing else for weeks. Kevin becomes more responsible and seldom drinks. Once a month, Kevin visits the cemetery to remember his friend and to remind himself.

(8) Sean barely acknowledges the fact he is now in high school. He goes only when nothing better happens. Lately, he has been busy. A few weeks ago, he become old enough. The men gave him a gun. He has been working since.

(9) The man in charge tells Sean today is the day to prove he belongs to the family. Sean and his friend follow through with the deal precisely but something goes wrong. Gun shots echo in the crisp night air. In a daze, he sees figures run away. He then looks to the ground. His friend's life floats from the body in a glistening dark stream. Sean tries to salvage what he can from the deal and walks away. His new family tells him to learn to survive or that will be him. Sean now carries a loaded gun with him everywhere. As a tribute, he paints his friend's name on the R.I.P. wall next to the basketball courts. Within weeks, he forgets.

(10) Kevin looks up from his computer with a sigh. The paper on Faulkner he has put off for weeks is due tomorrow. He turns on the radio for some instant relief. The song keeps repeating that "Your mama's on the crack rock." A picture of Kevin's mother floats through his head. He laughs at the song and returns to more important things. The song is quickly forgotten.

(11) Sean sits on the floor and reloads his gun. There is no room for mistakes. Tonight the big deal goes down. The radio blasts, telling of an addicted mother. While counting his stash, he comes up short. The lyrics of the song ring in his ears. He charges into the next bedroom only to find his mother in a hollow daze. He slaps her across the face and tells her next time he won't forgive.

(12) Kevin graduates June 2, 1991. He holds a place in the top ten percent of his class. Both parents sit in the throng of swinging paper fans and video cameras. When Kevin steps forward to receive his diploma, his parents stand and cheer for him, all of their attention focused upon the one navy blue figure on the platform. In three months Kevin will leave for the state university. The nurturing and growing with his family in his hometown has ended. In college he will grow further, but the cement has been poured, the foundation is set.

(13) On June 2, 1991, Sean plays basketball. He could have graduated today, but he won't. Last year the school expelled Sean for lack of
attendance. He refused to try again, or to care. More time means more money and more money means more fun. At eighteen Sean feels he controls everything: the parties, the women, the money, the streets, the drugs. He is finally the man in charge and nothing will stand in his way. He is living his life now.

(14) One day late in August, Kevin visits Sean's city. Gazing around him, Kevin accidentally bumps into another young man doing business. College supplies fall from Kevin's bag. Kevin apologizes as he bends down to retrieve his belongings. Sean proceeds to hurl ugly insults at Kevin, angered at being interrupted. Sean finally jumps into his car with his associate and takes off. Kevin watches the black BMW pull away in awe. Someday he hopes to become as successful as that man. Kevin will never know the very next day, someone sprays Sean's name on the R.I.P. wall.