



Most people believe that they have control over their **impulses** and that no matter how angry they get their **conscience** will stop them from taking their **aggression** out on other people. But what causes some people to completely lose control of themselves and commit murder – repeatedly? Do serial killers lack the sort of conscience that most of us take for granted?

Many murderers blame our culture. They claim that violence and sexuality in the media feeds their appetites. Other murderers are drawn to **brutality** as a way to escape their feelings of powerlessness and failure. The sense of completely **dominating** another human being make them feel as though they aren't such a failure. Still others may be attracted to the excitement of killing. They may see their lives as boring or **mundane**, and killing may be a way to break the **monotony**.

Regardless of their **motivations**, all serial killers live on the other side of our social boundaries. They represent the darkness, desire, power that we must control within our selves.

Vocabulary

Brutality – being cruel, harsh

Aggression – destructive behaviors

Mundane – ordinary

Motivation - a reason to cause someone to do something

Let's talk



1. Name some famous serial killers?
Tell me something about them.
2. At some point in our lives, we may feel an urge to seriously harm or even kill someone who makes us very angry. What is it that stops us? Is it our conscience, fear of punishment, social upbringing, or something else?

ACTIVITY

List of crimes are written on the table. Choose the appropriate punishment for each crime.

Crimes	Punishment
Manslaughter (Killing in self-defense)	Capital Punishment (the death penalty)
Sexual Assault	Life imprisonment (5- or 10-year prison term)
Treason (crime against the country)	Loss of Driving Privileges
Embezzlement/ fraud	Fine
Drunk Driving	Community service