



# "The Power of Resilience"

Review of Book: "A Child Called IT" by Dave Pelzer's







## DAVE PELZER

"Breaking the Cycle of Abuse"

### Dave's Life:

- Dave Pelzer was abused as a child by his mentally disturbed alcoholic mother.
- Dave's mother for reasons unknown singled out Dave for the abuse, She referred to him as "The Boy" or "It".
- Dave's father, a fire fighter, soon started drinking like his wife. Though he did not join in the abuse, he did nothing to stop it.
- Dave's mother often wouldn't allow him to eat so he ended up stealing food to eat, when his mother found out she punished him greatly.



## Summary "Surviving the Unthinkable"

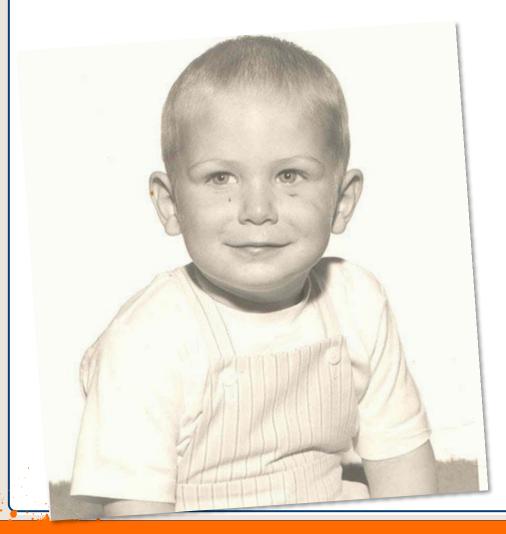
- "A Child Called It" is a memoir by Dave
  Pelzer that tells the story of his childhood
  abuse at the hands of his mother. The book
  is divided into chapters that chronicle
  different stages of Pelzer's life, from his
  early years as a happy child to his eventual
  rescue from his mother's abuse.
- The book has been described as a very moving and unbelievable journey of a young boy who <u>manages</u> to somehow survive his mother's unpredictable and torturous games.



#### Title that I wish to have for the book

#### "The Power of Resilience"





 Reason: Pelzer became determined to survive and fight back against his mother's abuse.





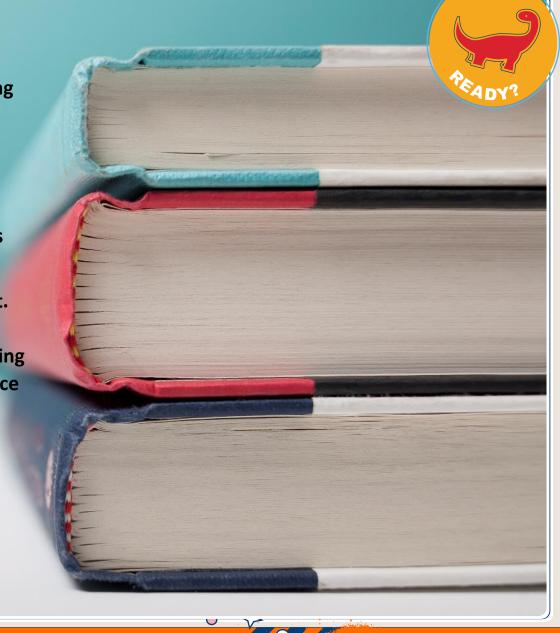
#### **REVIEW**

The book begins with Pelzer as a twelve-year-old boy living in Daly City, California. He is late for school and rushes to finish his chores before leaving for school. His mother hits him in the face and he falls to the floor.

In 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter, Pelzer describes his early years as a happy child who loved spending time with his family. He talks about how his mother was once loving and caring towards him. He's mother begins to abuse him physically and emotionally. She forces him to eat dog faeces and vomit, and she locks him in the bathroom for hours on end.

Pelzer's mother begins to withhold food from him as a form of punishment. He becomes malnourished and weak. Pelzer's mother stabs him in the stomach with a knife. He's father is away on business trips frequently, leaving Pelzer alone with his mother. She continues to abuse him. Pelzer finds solace in religion and begins to pray for help.

Pelzer's teachers begin to notice that something is wrong at home and report their concerns to Child Protective Services. Pelzer becomes determined to survive and fight back against his mother's abuse. Child Protective Services finally intervenes and rescues Pelzer from his mother's abuse.



#### KEY TAKEAWAYS:

PEADY?

- 1. "A Child Called It" is a powerful memoir that sheds light on the issue of child abuse.
- 2. The book highlights the importance of resilience and determination in overcoming adversity.
- 3. It also emphasizes the role that teachers and other adults can play in identifying and reporting child abuse.
- 4. The book can be difficult to read due to its graphic descriptions of abuse, but it ultimately offers hope and inspiration for survivors of trauma.





#### **LEARNINGS:**

The learning from this book can be applied in many ways such as:

- 1. Understanding the importance of reporting child abuse if you suspect it.
- 2. Learning how to recognize signs of child abuse.
- 3. Understanding how resilience can help people overcome adversity.
- 4. Learning how survivors of trauma can find hope and inspiration in their experiences.

