**[…]**

**The Fame Monster**

On November 16, Neiers arrived at Los Angeles Superior Court for her arraignment[[1]](#footnote-1) with an E! reality crew in tow. Her show, originally intended to be about her life as a party girl on the Hollywood scene, had now become a chronicle of her effort to stay out of jail. She was being charged that day with one count of residential burglary of Orlando Bloom’s home. In the media, she was being called a member of “the Burglar Bunch,” “the Bling Ring,” nicknames for the most successful and outrageous burglary gang in recent Hollywood memory: a gang of well-off[[2]](#footnote-2) kids from the Valley.

Camera crews from local news stations, *Good Morning America, Dateline NBC,* and TMZ were waiting outside Department 30 on the third floor of the courthouse. Producers from various shows murmured as Neiers—a former hip-hop- and pole-dancing instructor—sat calmly on a bench, allowing a makeup woman to touch her up.

A leggy girl with long, dark hair and shimmering blue-green eyes, Neiers was wearing a tweed miniskirt, a pink sweater, and six-inch Christian Louboutin heels. “I have a pretty cool shoe collection going on right now,” she said.

The L.A.P.D.’s report on the Bling Ring states that Nick Prugo told cops that Rachel Lee—a Korean-American girl from Calabasas, a wealthy suburb in the Valley—was “the driving force of the burglary crew and that her motivation was based on her desire to own the designer wardrobes of the Hollywood celebrities she admired.” Charged in the case are Neiers; Prugo; Lee; Tamayo; their friend Courtney Ames, 19; and Roy Lopez Jr., 27, a bouncer[[3]](#footnote-3) Ames knew from a waitressing job. (All have pleaded not guilty, except for Lee, whose arraignment was pending at press time.)

Between October of 2008 and August of 2009, the alleged members of the Bling Ring collectively stole more than $3 million in jewelry and high-end designer goods from a number of Young Hollywood players: Hilton, Lohan, Patridge (a regular on the reality show *The Hills*), Bilson (former star of *The O.C.*), original *Beverly Hills 90210* cast member Brian Austin Green and his girlfriend, actress Megan Fox. […]

The thieves apparently had a taste for luxury brands: Chanel, Gucci, Tiffany, Cartier, Prada, Marc Jacobs, Dolce & Gabbana, Burberry, Yves Saint Laurent. They allegedly stole clothes, shoes, handbags, makeup, perfume, underwear. They also took Green’s Sig Sauer .380 semi-automatic handgun.

**“The Suspects Wore Louboutins” by Nancy Jo Sales in *Vanity Fair*, March 2010**

Reading – Worksheet

1. **Anticipation on the title**

“The Suspects Wore Louboutins” by Nancy Jo Sales in *Vanity Fair*, March 2010

1. **Read the text & highlight all the people & places mentioned. Create a mind map to explain the connections between these people.**

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1. **Give 2 quotations from the text to explain their motive(s) for committing criminal offences.**
2. **Rephrase in your own words.**
3. **Using elements from the text, draw the suspects’ portraits & personalities. Develop with your own ideas.**

1. Lecture de l’acte d’accusation [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Wealthy [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Un videur [↑](#footnote-ref-3)