

***Generation Gap***

**READ and TRANSLATE**

My parents had a very different upbringing to what I have today... it's like we grew up in parallel universes. They were from Ireland, and grew up in secure homes, in the middle of the countryside with no cares in the world. I live in inner-city Birmingham, and with peer pressure, school stress and lots of other things to deal with, I think that I have a much tougher life than **they** had.

Times have definitely changed. We have a lot of responsibility as teenagers, and we have to act like adults. It depends on where you have grown up and who you hang around with, but I think most people start drinking alcohol around the age of 13 and lose their virginity around the age of 14. There isn't a definite age that most people try drugs. I am nearly 16 years old and I have never tried any, but I know plenty of people who have. This really depends on who you hang around with and how much will-power you have to say no.

I think that a lot of teenagers are discriminated against wrongly by adults. A few days ago I was on my way home in a rush because I was late, it was very dark and I was running. I ran past a middle-aged woman, and as I went past I brushed her shoulder. She let out a scream and grabbed a tight hold of her handbag. I found this really funny; **she** thought I was going to mug her.

Most teenagers have part-time jobs, which creates responsibility and the premature need to behave in an adult way. I've been working since I was about 13 (I look older than I am, and can lie about my age) but most teens start at around 15.

We need to have a certain level of trust put in **us**. We need to feel wanted and important, and not constantly targeted and victimized by the media. After all, if the media is constantly attacking teens and branding them as thugs, then that is the way we will act.

Kate Brown

**DO COMPREHENSION TASKS**

1. **Are these sentences true or false? Justify your answer.**
2. Kate thinks that her life is much easier than that of her parents.

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1. Getting addicted to drugs depends on the people you befriend and your determination.

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1. Kate believes that teens will behave according to the way the media describes them.

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1. **Complete the following sentences from the text.**
2. Kate feels her life is difficultbecause.............................................................................................
3. Part-time jobs not only create responsibility in teens but also.................................................
4. The middle-aged woman let out a scream when Kate run past her because she....................
5. **What do the underlined words in the text refer to?**
6. they (paragraph 1): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. she (paragraph 4): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. us (paragraph 5): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Find in the text words that mean almost the same as:**
2. sheltered (paragraph 1): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. hurry (paragraph 4): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. confidence (paragraph 5): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

