

Read this paragraph about Brooklyn and answer the questions.



Fact Box 1: My name is Brooklyn. I had to leave my last school because my behaviour in class was disruptive. I used to mess around a lot. I live with my Mum but she has to work in the evenings so I spend most of my time hanging with my older brother. He has been in jail for being in a gang and he has loads of really tough friends. They carry knives. I've seen them.
What are your first thoughts (impressions) about me? Would you want to be my friend if you knew this about me?

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Now read this next paragraph about him.

Brooklyn Fact Box 2: Here are some things that you didn't know about me...

I have a medical condition called Tourette's which means that I find it difficult to concentrate. Sometimes I have to shout things out, or do silly things, and I find it really hard to stop myself. The doctors have only just found this out.

I hate it when my Mum goes to work. I don't have a Dad so my brother has to look after me. He bullies me all the time because of my Tourette's and his friends scare me. They think it's funny when I shout out swear words and can't stop myself. Sometimes they make me cry because they make fun of my 'ticks' (the way I move my head sometimes). Some of them carry knives and I get worried that my brother is going to carry one too and get in trouble again.

I don't want to end up like them.

How have your thoughts changed?