

Lee's story

Name: Lee

Age: 17

Hobbies: basketball, street dance, graffiti art, Joelly D the popstar, karaoke

Lee's commitment to Karmel as a best friend is undeniable. But when she discovers that Karmel is keeping the fact that she's a lesbian secret, she feels hurt and abandoned. Her own non-conformity also creates conflict with her brothers, who would like her to dress and look more like they would expect a girl to.

"There are as many ways to be a girl as there are girls"

"It wouldn't kill you to wear a skirt once in a while"

At **Key Stage 3** students should be learning about "different and shared needs, abilities and membership of groups" and recognise that "culture, including the language, ideas, customs and traditions practised by people within a group, also forms part of identity".

Lee's story focuses on themes of **gender stereotyping** and **friendship**. Use Lee's story in PSHE and Citizenship classes to discuss the following questions:

- Why do people think Lee is a lesbian?
- Is Lee a stereotypical girl? What kind of "girl" do we see her as?
- What is a stereotype?
- Do you think Lee minds not fitting in? What makes her so proud of who she is?
- How does Lee feel when she finds out her best friend is keeping a secret from her?
- How important is family to Lee? How do we show people we love them?
- What would you do if you found out your best friend was gay?
- Why does Lee think Karmel will fancy her? Can Karmel be trusted to just be her friend?
- How should boys and girls "act" or "behave"?
- Why do you think many people would be upset by the word 'tranny'?
- How do you think a school could help to support a pupil who is transgender?
- How do we react when boys don't "act" like boys or girls don't "behave" like girls?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Girl Guides UK produces an annual *Girls' Attitudes survey* – a comprehensive study of the views and opinions of girls aged 7-21 across the UK. <http://girlsattitudes.girlguiding.org.uk>

Gendered Intelligence is an organisation which supports young transgender people and other young people experiencing issues with their gender identity. www.genderedintelligence.co.uk