

**TEENAGE PROBLEMS**

**1** *About a Boy* is a story about different people and their problems. Work in small groups and discuss these people's problems. What advice or help were they given? What did they do about the problems?



**2** Match the advice below with the people in exercise 1.

You are ill. Don't wait to get better by yourself - you need help now. You need to talk to somebody, and you might need some pills. You should see a doctor, who will be able to give you the best advice.

You seem very confident and cheerful, but really you are worried about yourself. Have you thought about making changes to your life? You could go out and do something interesting - why don't you get a job? Then you will feel better about yourself ... and people will like you more!

Is there anybody who you can talk to? Maybe a teacher, or a relative? You shouldn't have to worry about all this by yourself. And remember, you are not the only person who feels alone sometimes. Relax! You will soon make some friends.

**3** Discuss whether you agree with the advice.

**4** What kinds of problems do young people have? Talk about older teenagers - between 15 and 19 years old. Make a list of problems. Then decide if the problems are easy to solve or not.

Teenage problems .....

- No friends .....

- Bullying .....

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**5** Work with another student. Read the two letters below. Make notes about the problems each person has.

**LETTERS OF THE MONTH**

**Problem page letters**

I'm eighteen and I've just started college in a new town, hundreds of miles away from my family home. I don't know anybody and I'm finding it difficult to meet people and make friends. I'm missing my family a lot. I'm quite shy and feel nervous about talking to new people. I'm interested in lots of things, but they're mostly activities I do alone - painting, reading, walking, playing computer games, playing the guitar. How can I make new friends and stop feeling homesick?

*Chantelle Jacobs, London*

[jackhobson@jh811.hotletter.com](mailto:jackhobson@jh811.hotletter.com)

I am a sixteen-year-old girl who loves clothes and fashion. The trouble is, I can't afford to buy all the stuff I want. A few months ago I started stealing from shops. At first I just took little things, but it got easier and easier. Now I've got a cupboard full of stolen shoes, dresses, skirts and trousers. I never wear them, but I'm really worried that somebody is going to find out and I'll go to prison.

**6** Choose one of the people above, either Jack or Chantelle. What advice would you give him or her? Discuss your ideas and complete these sentences.

You should

Why don't you

What about

You could

Have you thought about

Don't