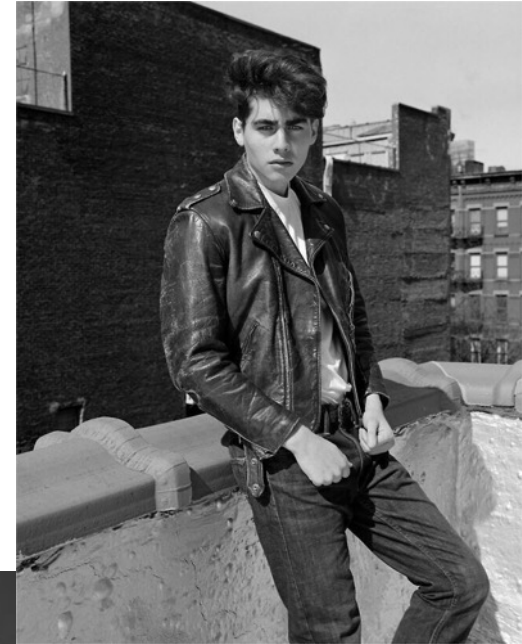


## How have the lives of teenagers changed across the 20<sup>th</sup> Century?



In the back of your book, write a list of stereotypes of teenagers today



Watch the following 2 clips... is this a fair representation of you?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLuEY6jN6gY&t=1s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gajMoWPs68c>

## 1. What impact did World War Two have on young people?

You're going to look at a series of sources and then we'll pull them together to try and get an idea of how the war affected young people...

Quickly stick your sources in your book leaving space to annotate around them



Sitting outside what was their home. London September 1940

We'll do this one together...

Annotate around Source 2 in your book, what can we learn about the lives of children during WW2 from this source?

**Source 2:**

It [the war] makes a lot of difference to me because we have to carry gas masks with us. And the sirens get on my nerves, but the ration of food is terrible. We are always hungry. I miss sweets. Nearly everything has gone up to an awful lot of money. In one part of the country they have no soap.

Vera, aged 8 – Taken from a mass observation teaching booklet called 'Children at War'. Published in 1987 but all the extracts are from interviews with children during the war.

WW2 was both terrifying and exciting for the children. Many cities were bombed, known as the The Blitz, killing 40,000 British people (5000 children). 1.4 million people had lost their homes. Despite this, many children found themselves playing on the rubble of their destroyed homes. Many children loved finding shrapnel in their gardens!

Read your source from a Hull school girl in 1943 – Annotate around it anything you find interesting or want to ask more about...

***Dear Rescue Men,***

***Just a few lines thanking you for what you did for us on July 14... How you helped to get my mother out, and to get my two brothers which was dead, how you help me to get to shelter when I hadn't any shoes on my feet.***

What can you infer about the impact of the war on Hull



Despite the stories of children seeming to enjoy the war, it was a time of real fear. Everyone felt at some point the Nazis would invade Britain and they would use gas, meaning gas masks became a very common part of children's daily lives in school and at home. 800,000 children were evacuated straight away in 1939 to the countryside to live away from the probable Nazi raids in the cities and towns; it would also free their mothers to join the war effort at work!

WW2 would have an impact on these children for the rest of their lives, some had a good experience some had terrible experiences.



The people who took the city children in couldn't quite believe the conditions of the poorest children, which contributed to the creation of the Welfare State and the NHS after WW2.

Read through sources 4, 5 and 6.

What can you learn about the lives of children during WW2, you might make some inferences too



**Source 4:** *Rene Wingwood, an evacuee from London*

The most difficult part of being evacuated is coming home again. It was the worst day of my whole life. I had completely forgotten my family in London. I was ten years old and suddenly I was to be taken away from all these wonderful people I had grown up with and not only from them but the whole village that I knew and loved. I knew every path, track and lane for miles around, every house and cottage, every man, woman and child, every cat, dog, cow and chicken. It was a beautiful world and I had to leave it all behind





**Source 5:** From *'How we lived then: A history of Everyday life during the Second World War* by Norman Longmate, published 1971

To some unlucky foster-parents it began to seem in those first, disillusioning weeks that life in the back streets of London and other large towns could hardly have changed since Dickensian times (Charles Dickens Victorian England, eg *Oliver Twist*). It was, perhaps, the beginning of that great movement of opinion that was to gather momentum throughout the war. At the time, however, the predominant emotion was horror... A small boy in Oxford astonished the two respectable elderly ladies who had taken him in by helpfully remarking after supper that he would put himself to bed, 'so you two old geezers can get off to the boozers'.



**Source 6:** *Mrs Rowley, a school teacher in Chepstow in a report to Mass Observation*

The difficulty seems to be that many of the children have never learned the ordinary decencies in life. What can be down with a child who picks a newspaper and goes into a corner of the drawing room instead of going to the toilet.... [Many] have never been used to sanitation, and foul (toilet) the paths and gardens.

One boy said he never went to sleep lying down, he perched himself by the bedpost and went to bed clinging with his head resting on it. There had never been room in the bed at home for him to lie down.



Write a summary of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century for young people. Use specific evidence that we have evaluated in today's lesson.

- Was it good?
- Bad?
- Did everyone face the same issues?
- Anything else you feel is important...

**Life for a teenager is about to get a whole lot more interesting...**

