



ACTIVITY 5: WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE...

At times, you may feel as if you're the only one who feels the way you do. It may help to remember that everyone has gone or will go through puberty. And although every generation of teenagers has its own special set of concerns, some feelings and experiences are the same for teenagers of every generation. Do you ever wonder what puberty was like for your parents — or grandparents — or teachers?

Interview a parent or another adult to find out what his or her life was like as a teenager. (Of course, you will first want to ask permission to do the interview.) Follow these steps:

1. Work with a partner to brainstorm a list of questions. What would you like to find out? Here are some suggestions:
 - What styles were popular when you were a teenager? What types of music? Who was your favourite singer or group?
 - What did you like to do? What did you worry about?
 - What did you enjoy about being a teenager? What was hard?
 - Do you think it's easier, different, or the same being a teenager today? Why?From your list, choose the best questions - the ones you are most interested in, and the ones most likely to encourage your subject to open up.
2. Decide how you will record your information. You might use a question sheet, or tape record your interview.
3. If you want to share your interview, decide what form you will use. You might use a written question and answer form, or use information from your interview for an article or story.

REPORTER'S TIP: You don't have to use all the information from your interview. You might edit the information — take out some information, or reorganize it — to make it more interesting for your audience. You should show the final copy of the interview to your subject, before you share it with others.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT songs that were popular with teenagers in another decade (the '50s, '60s, '70s, or '80s). Work with three or four other students to collect records from another decade. Listen to the songs and make notes about what they're about and the feelings they express. What do these songs tell you about the feelings of teenagers at that time? How are they the same as or different from those you and your friends listen to?