1. Stereotypical story for male and female growing up

Peter is a man. Jane is a woman. As a baby Peter had the blue room and Jane had the pink. Peter is 2 years older than Jane. Peter and Jane’s father worked in a bank. Their mother had worked as a nurse but when they were born their mother started working part-time and stayed at home with them most of the time. As they grew up they went to music lessons, Peter played the trumpet and Jane played the violin. Peter also joined the school football team and scouts. Jane joined the Guides and went to dancing lessons. For their exams Peter took sciences and went to University to study to be a doctor. Jane did English and after degree went into primary school teaching. When Jane was studying at University she met her future husband who was doing Mathematics and studied to be an accountant. Peter met his future wife at work in a hospital, she worked as a medical secretary. Now Peter has three children and Jane has two.

List the stereotypes in this this story of Peter and Jane.

1. Challenging Stereotypes

These groups of people often have stereotypes attached to them. What do you think the stereotypes might be for each? The first one has been done for you.

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| --- | --- |
| Boy  Likes climbing | Girl  Likes fashion |
| Man  Fixes things at home | Woman  Does the cooking |

1. Silent Statements

People can say things which are stereotypes and not about the individual person. You may have heard these; think about how they make you feel.

Boys are good at football

Girls play with dolls

Doing repairs is a man’s job

The kitchen is a woman’s place

(to a girl) Which boy do you like?

(to a boy) Which girl do you like?

1. Vic

As a 14-year-old boy Vic did well in class. Vic was quite good at sport and is sometimes chosen to be team captain. Both of Vic’s older siblings had married in their early 20s and Vic often got asked which girl he liked at school. Having lived in the same area all his life Vic had several long-term friends, many people had always assumed that Vic and his friend Katie were sweethearts, but they had only ever been friends. When Vic was 13 a new boy had started at school and they had made a good friendship. It was this friend, Amit, who made Vic’s heart leap but Vic never dared say a word for fear he would be bullied and called names for not fitting into the role that was expected of him. As time went on he became quieter and more distant from people as he continued keeping his feelings inside for fear of what people would say, or even worse what people would do. Vic and Amit remained friends but Vic could not talk to him much because he was worried, this worry slowly disturbed Vic’s sleep and in turn meant he could not concentrate at school and fell behind in his work. Vic hated the feelings he had for Amit and saw himself as the problem, saw his feelings as what was wrong. Vic believed he was supposed to grow up to be a ‘real man’ like his older brother. He firmly believed that it was Vic who was the problem and began to think he should just disappear and all would be OK. Vic got angry and would particularly get angry and aggressive towards Amit and other male friends.