

Unit 8 Discussion Video: Tanya

My name is Tanya and I am 16 years old. Many people tell me that I am smart, though I prefer to be called beautiful – no one ever calls me that, though. I am in all of the advanced placement classes at school and have a group of friends that everyone else ignores. We stay to ourselves mostly and that's OK. Lately, I have been feeling depressed because my friends are not exciting, we never do anything that is, you know—daring. It seems like everyone else is having a better time in high school than I am.

So, last week, I decided to start hanging around with other kids, you know, to have some fun. It was hard to get them to talk to me at first. I had to bring clothes to school to change so they would notice me (my parents would kill me if they saw how I dress in school now). Then, I had to stop spending time with my others friends. I even started skipping classes! I know they are still using me, because we use my car for skipping, but I don't care. For the first time, I have a boyfriend who doesn't care if I'm smart. In fact, he lets me do his homework.

Yesterday, Kim, the leader of this group, told me I could go to a party with them this weekend (my first) if I promise to steal booze from my parents. I love how I feel when I am with them, but I also know that my parents will ground me for life if I raid their liquor cabinet. I really want to go and stealing from my parents just this once should be fine. After all, I have never done anything like this before—how much trouble could I get in?