

Achievements and experiences in education

My mum teaches me at home. This has enhanced my natural curiosity and creativity. I have learned a lot of science especially about birds and evolution by studying books for myself. I feel that studying at home has stopped my mind from being shuttered up and I think that learning is about opening your mind. I also think that because I am home-educated I am more of an individual.

Outside interests and achievements

I enjoy reading and my favourite poet is William Blake. I read him a lot. I like drawing a lot; I have a folder full of pictures of birds which are my favourite subject. I think that drawing makes you look at the world more closely and to see things more clearly. You could say that in my spare time I am fixated on birds just now. I have learned how model birds in clay and mark in their feathers with a knife. By studying from nature and from books I have learned to understand evolution. Another of my hobbies is climbing things, especially trees. Some people call me 'monkey girl' because I am always climbing.

Personal qualities

I think I am quite extrovert and I like to be a leader and take charge of things. For example, my friend Michael and I have been doing work in the community with an elderly person who suffers with arthritis. I am a good listener as well as being a good talker and have managed to teach my friend Michael about birds and evolution. Being home-educated has made me confident and creative. I have shown the helpful side to my personality by helping out this Skellig man. We have recently helped him re-locate and it almost took my breath away when I realised that we could help him. I think having to sort out Skellig's problems has shown that I can be intelligent and resourceful. I have shown my reliable side by sticking by Michael, my best friend, because he has faced a lot of problems at home recently.

My hopes for 10 years from now

I think I would like to be a mixture of a scientist and an artist. Scientist because I like to understand stuff like evolution and phenomena like 'pneumatisation'. Artist because I just love to draw and sculpt - I think these activities are almost like a science because they help you see and understand things very clearly. I think I could be a good teacher; I have taught Michael loads of quite difficult things. I hope that Michael and I are both still friends in ten years' time but not necessarily in a sappy or romantic way. Funnily enough, I think I could end up working in education but better not let mum read that!