

## **Sophie**

Sophie lives with her parents and younger brother in a quiet suburban area. Her family is middle-class, and both of her parents went to university. They place a high value on education and often talk to her about the importance of doing well in school. Sophie has a desk in her own bedroom, access to a laptop and internet, and attends private tutoring for maths. Her mum regularly helps her with homework and encourages her to apply to university. Sophie enjoys school and feels confident in most of her lessons.

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## **Kieran**

Kieran comes from a working-class background and lives in a small flat with his parents and three younger siblings. His parents both left school at 16 and work long hours in low-paid jobs. Kieran often has to help out at home, especially with childcare, which can make it hard to focus on homework. He doesn't have his own space to study and sometimes struggles with accessing resources like the internet. Although he wants to do well, he finds it difficult to keep up in some subjects and doesn't always feel supported at school.

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## **Amina**

Amina moved to the UK from Somalia two years ago and is currently in Year 11. English is her second language, and while she works very hard, she still finds some words and phrases confusing – especially in subjects like History and English. Despite this, Amina is determined to succeed and often stays behind to ask teachers for help. Some teachers assume she won't get high grades because of her background, which can be frustrating. She does well in science and maths and dreams of becoming a doctor.

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## **Josh**

Josh has dyslexia and finds reading and writing tasks quite difficult. He receives some learning support in school, but he often feels embarrassed when he has to ask for help. Some of his classmates tease him, and as a result, Josh has started to lose interest in certain lessons. However, he shines in practical subjects like PE and Drama, where he feels more confident and engaged. His teachers recognise his talents, but he still feels judged mainly on his written work and test scores.