



James, 15

What have you been doing this week?

I've been going to school. I'm taking art, world history, Spanish, geometry, English, and earth science. They are all honors classes,* except Spanish. There are no honors classes in Spanish.

What are you doing in art class?

We learn how to draw things. We learn how to hold pencils and get different shades. I'm drawing a tiger right now. We also learn to use pastels* and paint.

Is it your favorite class?

Yes.

Have you been doing anything else?

Hanging out with my friend Clare. I always wrestle her little brother. I sleep a lot really. And I eat a lot. It doesn't show though.

Are you growing a lot? Teenage boys often eat and sleep a lot because they're growing a lot.

I've been growing for quite a while now.

Is there anything happening at school?

We have been having midterms. They're the middle-of-the-year tests. The tests are hard, especially in honors classes.

Is there anything that you are looking forward to?

Summer. My family is going to California. I have a mother and a father and a little sister. My mother says she is sick and tired of* staying in the house, so we're hitting up Cali.* We'll go to Los Angeles. I'm just sort of going along with* whatever my mom says.

What do you want to do after high school?

Go to college. I want to study health sciences or medicine. I think I can earn a lot of money that way. I'd like to do sports medicine.*

Is there anything that you would like to say to kids in other countries?

Wazzup?*

A Few Words

Honors classes: These classes are for the best students.

Pastels: A kind of colored chalk for making pictures.

Sick and tired of: This is informal language. If you are sick and tired of doing something, it means that you have done it for a long time and want to do something new and different.

Hitting up Cali: This is informal language. It means "going to California."

Sort of going along with: This is also informal language. It means that James's mother is making decisions and he is following her ideas.

Sports medicine: This is taking care of the injuries that people get when they are playing sports, such as injured muscles.

Wazzup?: This comes from the question "What is up?" and means "What is happening?" It is the informal way that young people say hello to each other.

Discussion Questions

1. Is there anything that you are "sick and tired of"? What is it? Why is it part of your life?
2. No one knows what will happen in the future. Maybe you will have an opportunity to earn a lot of money. If you earn a lot of money in the future, what do you think you will do with the money?