

THE BODY

You cannot wear that out; you have to cover up your shoulders; you have to cover up your stomach; you cannot wear those shorts; you cannot wear that skirt; you will catch the attention of the boys; you will catch the wrong attention from the boys; you cannot wear that dress, it's too tight; the boys will think of you as the whore you are so hell-bent on becoming; you cannot wear those heels, you are going to look like a stripper with those heels and that dress; you are only 14 and your breasts are too big along with your butt; you cannot dress in that because your body looks too different from the other girls that wear that; your body looks too mature for you to be able to wear those things; you cannot wear those because it makes you look older; your outfit makes you like the whore you are so hell-bent on becoming; but my clothes on my body don't make me a whore; you cannot wear makeup it makes you look too old; you cannot wear that makeup it will catch the attention of the boys; you cannot wear that makeup it will catch the wrong attention from the boys; you cannot wear that makeup it makes you look like the whore you are so hell-bent on becoming; you cannot wear your hair that way it makes you look too old; you cannot wear your hair that way with that makeup and that outfit it makes you look too mature, too much older; you will catch the attention of the boys; you will catch the wrong attention from the boys; you cannot wear that outfit with that makeup with that hair it will make you the whore you are so hell-bent on becoming; you cannot get your nails done it will make you look too much older; you cannot have your nails done it will catch the attention of the boys; you cannot get your nails done it will catch the wrong attention from the boys; you cannot wear that outfit with that makeup with that hair with those nails with that figure because it makes you look like the whore you are so hell-bent on becoming.

The boys like it when you have a nice outfit on; the boys like it when you have an outfit on that shows off your hourglass figure; if I had a body like that at your age I would show it off; you will get the attention of the boys; you will get the right attention from the boys; the boys like it when you have your makeup done; the boys like it when you have your makeup done nicely; the boys like it when you have a nice outfit showing off your figure with your makeup done, you will get the right attention from the boys; the boys like it when you have your hair done; if I had hair like that with the figure like that, I would show it off too; you will get the attention of the boys; you will get the right attention from the boys; the boys like it when you have a nice outfit showing off your figure with your makeup done with your hair done; if I had a body like that with hair like that, I would show it off too; you will get the attention of the boys; you will get the right attention from the boys; the boys like it when you have your nails done; the boys like it when you have a nice outfit with a nice figure with your makeup done with your hair done and your nails done; you will get the attention of the boys; you will get the right attention from the boys; if I were you I would show myself off; do not forget to show yourself off; What if I don't want to show myself off? You're telling me that after everything I told you, you don't want to?

CHARLOTTE

(she/her)

My AP Literature teacher asked us to write a spinoff of "Girl," by Jamaica Kincaid. At the time I was struggling with my mental health, and within 15 minutes I wrote this. My teacher asked if I wanted to submit it in this contest, and I said no. Someone told me not to associate myself with what I wrote. Five months later, I found myself struggling with extreme body dysmorphia, something I never thought would happen. So I decided to ask my teacher if she had somewhere I could share this poem. She asked me to submit it into this contest in particular, in hopes that it could help someone else in the same mindset.

This is something I have never vocalized, but something that has always lingered in the back of my mind. Everything said in this poem is something I have heard by people in my life. Not all the same person, some meant it as a joke, but the joke stung. Some didn't mean for it to hurt, but it did. All of these words have made a lasting imprint on my body image. I almost didn't realize it until my teacher asked me to write something, with almost no guidelines.

