**Notes from visit (10th February 2014) for Favourite Thing and Family Interviews with Funmi (14).**

**Object from the present:** Hardback book by Lauren Kate called ‘Teardrop’ – a fantasy novel aimed at teenagers and young adults.

**Object from the past:** A pink door sign that reads ‘Princess’s Room’ in bubble writing.

Funmi was recruited through a coding club operating in an inner city library. I approached the coding club’s leader, who recommended Funmi and her mother. Initial contact was arranged through Funmi’s mother.

Funmi lives in a semi-detached house in a leafy suburb of London. Approaching her house from the station takes me through some contrasting locations: green, pleasant terraces, and large grey junction that lead onto the motorway. The steady background hum of traffic is ever-present on my walk up to Funmi’s house.

Funmi’s mother greets me at the door, along with her two youngest sons (both in years seven or eight). Both the boys are very friendly and shake my hand when they introduce themselves. One of the sons asks if I would like a drink and goes to fetch me a glass of water. We sit in the living whilst Funmi finishes a last bit of homework and I chat to Funmi’s mum, Adele, about her work. She’s currently doing an MA in education, but also runs her own business in educational games. She tells me how she has recently had to tell someone that their business isn’t viable long term and won’t generate them any income.

Funmi arrives downstairs and stands shyly at the door. Adele asks if Funmi remembers what she needed to prepare for the interview, but Funmi has forgotten the favourite things. Funmi goes to look for some objects and comes back with a hardback book. She can’t think of anything to use for her past object and Adele suggests she can think of a number of suitable objects. Adele goes off to pick a selection of things that Funmi might want to choose from, and comes back with the choice of a decorative hair clip and a plastic child’s door sign. Funmi seems pleased with the idea of the door sign and chooses it as her past object.

We sit down in the living room for the interview and Adele sits at the opposite end of the room to us using her laptop. There’s no obvious surface to pick the recording device on and initially I place it on the television stand. However, Funmi’s voice is incredibly quiet and I begin to worry that the recorder isn’t going to be able to detect her voice, so I pick it up and place it on the floor between us. The interview is quite difficult to begin with, as her answers are short and quiet. After awhile she seems to relax a little, though she plays with an earring in her hands throughout the interview. When we talk about the book she becomes more enthusiastic and animated. I feel a little self-conscious talking to Funmi with Adele present, however she is out of my line of sight and I gradually become less conscious of her presence. Towards the end of the interview, the younger brothers return to the living room and stand quietly listening next to where their mother is sat. This doesn’t seem to bother Funmi and we are already drawing the interview to a close.

At the end of the interview I ask if its possible to take some picture’s of Funmi’s room, particularly of her bookshelves, which she mentions regularly in the interview. Funmi says it is fine but Adele is a bit more hesitant as the room hasn’t been tidied and an older brother will be upstairs and is unlikely to be fully dressed. Adele instead offers to take some pictures for me with Funmi, and they go upstairs with the ipod touch to take some photos. One of the younger brothers stays around and asks me questions about my favourite subjects when I was at school. I begin to ask him the same questions in response, but he seems more interested in asking me questions.

Adele and Funmi return with the ipod touch and Funmi wonders off to eat some dinner. After she’s eaten we begin the family interview, with just Adele, Funmi and the youngest brothers. Adele says that the older brother upstairs doesn’t want to take part. In anticipation of the interview, Adele has already assigned parts of the day to different children. In begins with one of the younger boys describing everything from morning to the end of school. After her has finished I take the opportunity to unpick the day a bit more, trying to make the discussion a little less formal. When we come to speak about the family’s evening routines one of the younger brothers shows me a chart that they have printed out which the three youngest children (including Funmi) use as their schedule. This assigns time for ‘homework’, ‘reading’, ‘free time/television’ and ‘dinner’. In places the chart has been edited so that times have been swapped around – apparently this is because the children collectively negotiated a change. Only one reference is made to the father (the time he gets up) and it’s not clear how he fits into family routines. The two older brothers are mentioned occasionally, particularly that they have a more flexible routine. Funmi contributes less in this interview, but appears more relaxed and confident – sometimes sitting cuddled up next to her mum. The family seem quite conscious of the time and the children seem quite restless, so I tie up the interview a little earlier than I would have liked. We agree afterwards that we’ll discuss a bit more about the family’s media use on another occasion – possible when I come to do Funmi’s day in the life.

Adele insists on driving me to the station. Just as we are about to leave one of her eldest sons arrives back (from college) and we have a quick chat. The two youngest boys greet him with a kiss on the cheek and a hug. In the car Adele tells me the youngest boys look up to their older brother, and that they keep him in check by asking if he’s done his homework.