**Interview with Funmi (14 years old) – Favourite Things.**

**Interviewer:** Liam Berriman

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**Interviewer:** It picks up sound from quite far. So, which of your objects would you like to talk about first?

**Funmi:** (erm) this one.

**Interviewer:** Okay, so this is your object from your past? (er) Tell me what it is.

**Funmi:** It’s something that was meant to go on front of my bedroom door. I got it for Christmas from my uncle. It’s pink because, because it was my favourite colour. It says princess because, I guess that’s how he thought of me. So I really cherish it, I think it’s really special. So

**Interviewer:** So it’s, so you said it was Christmas that you got it? And, which, how long ago was that?

**Funmi:** Two, I think two Christmases ago.

**Interviewer:** Okay, and so your uncle got it for you (erm) why do you think it’s particularly special that it’s from him?

**Funmi:** (erm) I suppose, I think he’s very interesting, and I find him very cool and (erm) the way that he does things, I think it’s quite interesting.

**Interviewer:** Yeah? What kinds of things does he do?

**Funmi:** (erm) (laughs) the way that he, the way that he sleeps sometimes, it makes me laugh. It’s quite funny. The way he jokes around. He’s always smiling.

**Interviewer:** So with, having that as a gift from him, does that mean it has quite positive memories that you attach to it?

**Funmi:** Yeah

**Interviewer:** Any in particular?

**Funmi:** (erm) I think we went to one of my other uncle’s houses, we were watching a film and he was standing next to one of the speakers and it made a very loud noise, and he kicked his leg up as if he was going to knock the speaker over and we all laughed.

**Interviewer:** (laughs) okay, so quite funny memories. (erm) okay, so is it something that you still use, or not anymore?

**Funmi:** I still put it up in places, but it can’t go on my door, unless I found a really strong super glue.

**Interviewer:** And is your room still pink?

**Funmi:** No. Right now it’s not pink. My favourite colour has changed to purple (inaudible) [changed to purple/red?]

**Interviewer:** Okay, so when did your room colour change?

**Funmi:** (erm) (pause) I guess I started thinking, for me that pink was (er) a boring colour, and a little bit girly, for me, so purple.

**Interviewer:** So you think you grew out of it a bit. How long had your room been pink before then?

**Funmi:** (erm) I think (er) I think since I finished, since I started secondary school. My room was pink before secondary school and then it changed. My room, if I could change it, would probably be some sort of purple.

**Interviewer:** What other kinds of things decorate your room? Do you have any posters or?

**Funmi:** Pictures

**Interviewer:** Pictures of (er) photographs or

**Funmi:** Pictures of family (er) and (er) one of them was a poster from one of my old teachers in primary school, it was a poster of pictures from some of my favourite times from (er) the beginning of primary school.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, so that’s quite important to you from your past as well?

**Funmi:** Yeah

**Interviewer:** Okay, and (erm) do you think (er) there are any other pictures you might have considered from your past aside from this? Anything else you’d consider to be

**Funmi:** (erm)

**Interviewer:** Anything you’ve held on to from when you were younger?

**Funmi:** (pause) (erm) not sure (er)

**Interviewer:** Are there any toys you’ve held onto, like soft toys or

**Funmi:** Oh, I have a lot of soft toys from the past that I haven’t wanted to get rid of because I find them very special.

**Interviewer:** Yeah? Are there any things you have got rid of from your past?

**Funmi:** (erm) there was one of my toys, I gave it to my little cousin, because she really liked it. It was about the time where I was really going off pink and it was a pink unicorn so I gave it to her.

**Interviewer:** Was it difficult to part with or did you feel it was going to-

**Funmi:** It was difficult because I really liked it, it was softer than most of the other toys had so, it was probably my favourite.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, but still it was a nice gesture to pass it on to someone else

**Funmi:** Yeah.

**Interviewer:** (er) and when it comes to things from your past, how do you decide what to keep?

**Funmi:** (erm) If it’s from, if it’s from someone that maybe, probably, I haven’t really seen in a long time, then I’m most likely to keep it. But if it’s from someone that I’m most likely to (er) see them the next day or next week, I’d probably get rid of it.

**Interviewer:** So it can be important if there’s a connection to someone you don’t see as much? Okay. And where do you keep all of the things from your past, are they, so with your soft toys, are they still out on display somewhere?

**Funmi:** I put like my special soft toys on my dressing table, because I like to look at them, when I wake up or when I’m just sitting in my room.

**Interviewer:** Yeah, and is there anything that you’ve put away in storage that you don’t mind not seeing as much anymore?

**Funmi:** (erm) well, there are things that are important, but that they don’t go on my dressing table, because they’re kind of different

**Interviewer:** What kinds of things?

**Funmi:** Maybe a letter or books that I find important to me. Maybe like (erm) something like a shirt that was signed by my friends

**Interviewer:** Was that from primary school?

**Funmi:** yeah, we had special messages written on the shirts so and stuff like that. And (erm) like my old cards, I don’t throw any of my old birthday cards away. So from, from maybe eleven or twelve I’ve been keeping my birthday cards in a box so it goes all the way back from my oldest cards that I started putting in boxes to my latest ones from last year. The other ones, I think my mum has kept somewhere.

**Interviewer:** Why do you think you decided to keep those?

**Funmi:** Because (erm) I find them very special (er) because they were given to me by very special people and I don’t want to (erm) I don’t really like throwing stuff away because even if I think that I wouldn’t miss (yawns) I wouldn’t miss the object or card (erm) I do, even if it’s just a piece of paper.

**Interviewer:** Okay, so how do you think you’ve changed in the last couple of years? You said that you’ve gone off pink, can you think of any other ways that you think you’ve changed?

**Funmi:** (erm) (pause) hmm. I (pause) I like different things. The clothes that I wear. From primary school to probably, probably year seven or eight I liked to wear a lot of trousers, a lot of leggings and stuff, but now, because, I didn’t like being told to wear dresses or skirts, just, it never really felt right, so I wore trousers, and trainers or flats or something. (Erm) but now I like wearing dresses, not, not heels but (erm) more, more feminine shoes and (erm) boots and stuff. Fluffy boots.

**Interviewer:** And have you started wearing a school uniform since you started secondary school or was there one at primary school?

**Funmi:** Yeah, I’ve always worn (erm) well, when I started primary school I wore (er) what was it, a pinafore and then when I got to about year three, I started to wear trousers, all the way to the end of school and I didn’t, I never really wore, I don’t think I wore skirts or dresses again. But then, when I got to secondary school, from year seven to about, from seven to eight I started wearing trousers, because I felt more comfortable, and I felt I could move around more. I could myself in them, in anything, a skirt as well, but I just felt, felt more myself in trousers. So

**Interviewer:** How did you find going up to secondary school?

**Funmi:** It was (erm) I found it (er) difficult because, obviously the work got harder as I went higher in school, it got harder so it was quite stressful. And I started doing more tests in primary school

**Interviewer:** Which isn’t fun

**Funmi:** Yeah (laughs) and then I had to more study, there was quite a bit of pressure. I felt quite a bit of pressure on a whole. And (erm) when it came to (er) when it came to stuff like working in groups or making friends, I felt kind of uncomfortable because I don’t like being told to make friends or, I don’t feel comfortable talking to people that I don’t know so, I would kind of like to do it in my own time.

**Interviewer:** Was it quite a bigger school to go into?

**Funmi:** Definitely bigger (erm) definitely, yeah it’s big.

**Interviewer:** Is it further to travel?

**Funmi:** No, maybe (erm) two or three minutes away from my primary school.

**Interviewer:** Okay, so not too bad. (pause) Okay, so, shall we talk about the other object then? And so we’ve got your book. So do you just want to say a bit about what it is, and why you chose it?

**Funmi:** I chose it because, I like reading, make-believe books in general. I like imagining how the main character looks, at how the whole scene of the story looks. And, I like imagining (erm) the inspiration that was given to the author when they were writing the book (erm)

**Interviewer:** So how they came to have the ideas?

**Funmi:** Yeah, and (erm) I like, I’d seen this book whilst I was on the internet and I’d seen the picture of this book, and I saw the cover of it, and straight away I really wanted it (erm) so

**Interviewer:** What about the cover?

**Funmi:** (erm) I found it to be quite beautiful, because I like the way the sky is not normal blue, it was, it was different shades of blue but then it went sort of pink and purple, I found that quite interesting. And then how her dress was made out of water, made me really want to see what the book was actually about. I saw the book in, I think, Tesco and, then, I wanted to get it but there was this other book that I wanted to buy, so we bought that but I wanted to get this but I had to wait. So when I wanted to get this it was around Christmas last year and it was bought for me and, I think the day after, I started reading it. And I was really happy because I found it very interesting.

**Interviewer:** So what’s it about?

**Funmi:** It’s (sighs) when people ask me that I don’t really know what to say because I like it but I don’t really know how to describe it. It’s about, I guess, it’s about this girl, I’m not sure if this is supposed to be her, but she, she’s not a very emotional person, and her mum died in a car accident on a bridge and she drowned, but she survived. And she, instead of crying like any normal girl or boy (erm) she didn’t do anything. But instead, inside, she was torn up. And there’s this mysterious (erm) boy who she feels like she knows, who she always sees but she never really speaks to him and (erm) she doesn’t cry because, when she was little, she was crying uncontrollable and her mum hit and said ‘don’t cry again’. But she had said it for a reason, and she never understood why, but she always, she never cried again. And the closest time she ever came to crying was when she was, when someone bashed her car, and she wasn’t sure why she was crying but she was about to cry. And the mysterious person I told you about wiped the tear from her face and said ‘no more crying’ and then she stopped, and that was the closest she came to crying. And she, I guess she’s kind of learning more about herself as a person. That’s all I can describe about it.

**Interviewer:** Mmm. How long did it take you to read it?

**Funmi:** (erm) three days.

**Interviewer:** So you’re quite a quick reader then?

**Funmi:** If, if I’m reading a book that I’m interested in then (erm) I tend to finish it quite quickly. Which is why (yawns) I read this book again, because I wanted to make sure that I actually understood what was going on, what was happening with her. So I read it again, a few days later, but it took me longer because, I’m not sure why it took my longer, but because it took me longer I could actually try and understand the story properly, because even though I could understand it, I could read deeper into and understand what actually was going on. So I read it twice and I actually think I’m going to read it again, again, again.

**Interviewer:** Were you planning to do that anyway, or has getting it out made you think about it again?

**Funmi:** (erm) I said to my friend, my friend had asked me last week if I’d finished and I said I’m going to read it for the third time. And she just started laughing because every time she saw me since we got back to school, none of my friends have seen me with any other book except this one. Even though I’m not reading it, I still just carry it in my bag or carry it around.

**Interviewer:** Do any of your friends read as well or

**Funmi:** They don’t, all my friends read but (erm) I’m not sure, but I don’t really think they read as much. Because I read, I read because, maybe I’ve read a blurb and I find it interesting and I just want to see what it’s about, see if I enjoy it and I’ll read it, but I don’t know why. Some of them read.

**Interviewer:** So you said you saw this one online originally?

**Funmi:** I was on a wikia website for a TV show and I saw like a little advert with the cover of book and I said I liked it but I didn’t click on the website because (erm) I just continued what I was doing. Most people would click on it to find out everything they can about it, but I just decided to leave it, because, most of my friends would say this, but I don’t really like spoiling stuff for myself.

**Interviewer:** Oh yeah, so you avoided reading anything else about it, to keep it all a surprise

**Funmi:** Yeah

**Interviewer:** Have you read anything else by the author, or is it just the one book?

**Funmi:** This is the first book from the author that I’ve read but now that I’ve read it and I’ve seen what else she’s published I want to try others as well.

**Interviewer:** Okay. And where do you normally keep your books?

**Funmi:** (erm) my bed has a bit of (erm) has two columns, so it’s in half and then it’s split again there are two there and two there. I keep my school books that I use on the top layer and then my older books that I use for revision at the bottom. And then I keep my (yawns) all my books that I’m interested in that I read, I keep next to my school books on the bigger shelf, just all standing up so I can see the names if I decide to pick one of them up. All the books on my shelf have been read (inaudible – too quiet).

**Interviewer:** And do you always keep hold of books after you’ve finished reading them?

**Funmi:** If I’ve read it and I still really like it, I would probably keep it in my bag and then just have a read through some of my favourite pages or something. (erm) If I find it interesting, but it’s not that interesting I’d probably just flick to any page and look at it.

**Interviewer:** So when you read favourite pages again, do you keep track of where they are in the book, using bookmarks or

**Funmi:** It’s either using a bookmark or I just somehow I remember the page of the book.

**Interviewer:** Yeah. Do you try to write any stories yourself?

**Funmi:** (erm) I have, my friends said that they were good but then I ripped them up and threw them away.

**Interviewer:** Is that because you decided you didn’t like them as much after all or

**Funmi:** I liked them but I just didn’t think that anyone else would really like them, because people that I showed them to, the people I showed them to, not my friends, but my not really close friends that I show stuff to, didn’t appreciate it how my other friends appreciated it. That takes the biggest toll on me, which made me throw them away. I don’t like throwing pieces of work away because at school I used to go this creative writing club and used to write things and (erm) used to take them home and write them up on the computer, and like we wrote, wrote some things, and I’d taken mine home and I was really proud of them, and I showed it to some of my friends, a few of my friends, and they said it was nice, so I showed it to some other friends and they didn’t really appreciate it so when I got home I just threw it in the bin.

**Interviewer:** Were these kind of fantasy stories, like your books, or something different?

**Funmi:** I wrote, I wrote about, I like to write about fantasy stuff because I guess that’s my strong point and I like writing, I only realised in year nine for homework, I like writing drama scripts and I like, if I write any more scripts, I will probably like, when I grow up become maybe a journalist or a script writer, I’m not sure.

**Interviewer:** And is that other things you’ve been practicing, in terms of writing? Have you tried to write news stories or

**Funmi:** Yeah

**Interviewer:** What appeals to you about those?

**Funmi:** (erm) well if you have like a good imagination then the way you picture a book, like the way you picture the story of the book (yawns) is never how anyone else pictures it, we all picture it differently, which is what I find interesting. Which is why, when people make films or plays of books, I (erm) find it interesting that a central part of that film is how I imagined or how did this person, how did the person see this in the book, stuff like that.

**Interviewer:** Mmm. Okay (pause) is there anything else you’d consider to be a favourite object right now. You picked your book but is there anything other things that are really important to you right now?

**Funmi:** Probably my (er) my clothes, because they’re all from different people and they were all given to me for different reasons. Some for birthdays, some for Christmas (erm) some were given to me because they were too small or too big or because they looked nice on me.

**Interviewer:** So you enjoy wearing different outfits?

**Funmi:** Yeah

**Interviewer:** Okay, how about anything technology? It’s interesting that you chose a book

**Funmi:** (erm) I like technology, I like the (erm) the iPad, I like everything from Apple.

**Interviewer:** Do you have an iPad yourself?

**Funmi:** We have an iPad, my dad has a Mac, we have a touch screen computer, my mum has a Surface. It’s mostly, it’s mostly technology that’s game related, that I like. Because I like how, maybe the character looks and like the, graphics of certain games on certain (erm) pieces of technology.

**Interviewer:** Are there any particular?

**Funmi:** I like (er) I tend to like games for their graphics but I actually, I actually started liking Minecraft, because I find it interesting and at first I wondered why people were always talking about it, because I wondered why they liked the graphics (erm) and I didn’t really appreciate it until I played it, and then I watched people play and I watched their reactions and I saw it’s not always about graphics, it can be about how the game was written (erm) the concept and things like that.

**Interviewer:** What particularly about Minecraft appeals then?

**Funmi:** I like how it’s not one of those games that you can, well I don’t know yet, but I guess one of those that you can complete, so I don’t actually like competing games because then it’s over and if you start it all over again there’s nothing really new to it and that why I just, instead of waiting to get a new game I just play the game over and over again until I’ve memorised everything about it.

**Interviewer:** Do you feel the same way about books? Do you wish-

**Funmi:** Yes

**Interviewer:** (laughs) I can see a common theme there. So how do you think, so we’ve talked about your life has changed, how do you think your life is going to change in the next couple of years? What do you think will change?

**Funmi:** (erm) hmm

**Interviewer:** It’s quite a hard question isn’t it

**Funmi:** (erm) I guess (pause) (erm) maybe, I’ll see the world in a different way (erm) I don’t know

**Interviewer:** Do you think school will get harder? Are there bits of school you’re looking forward to?

**Funmi:** I think that, yes, I think school will get harder (erm) cos they’re starting to introduce new things like, talking about doing GCSEs in year ten and starting some of your exams in year ten which has kind of made people think differently, like, maybe the people, the slackers that thought they would have it easy, but when they found that we start exams next year, they started to focus lots more on their work and their lessons (erm) I think there’s going to be, I think there’s going to be a lot of stuff that we use now that I don’t think will be used in the future because a lot of people think, well actually I was one of those people, that thought that (er) that there was going to be a lot of robots and hovercrafts and you know, I still think something that, maybe not the robots, I think there’s going to be a lot less books and a lot more maybe Kindles. And maybe a less petrol and maybe we use, maybe we use solar panels on people’s cars.

**Interviewer:** So with books becoming electronic, do you think, do you still prefer a physical-

**Funmi:** Personally, the Kindle seems good, but I prefer holding the actual book because I like the feel of the paper and I that if you get, if you get, if you pour something on your Kindle it’s ruined, but if you pour it on a book you might get a coffee stain but at least you can still read it. And the Kindle is quite expensive, and you could probably use that money to buy maybe four books instead of one thing. So it’s, well it’s not good. For most people that wouldn’t be a problem (inaudible – too quiet). I guess that’s all really, because there are, most people if they see the Kindle, they don’t really think about the whole (erm) you see how, in certain countries, children have to work (erm) and the stuff that’s in people’s phone, children have to go and mine for it, instead of adults, which is obviously child cruelty, but most people don’t think about stuff like that. They just think about, I don’t think that’s the way people should be thinking, because if people think like that then there’ll be a lot less people and a lot less resources to do helpful things.

**Interviewer:** Mmm. Those things are quite important for you?

**Funmi:** When I used to do geography, my teacher would tell me how, if we don’t be careful with how we use stuff, petrol and all these, transport, our children could end up living in a post-apocalyptic world with hardly any food, it’s kind of selfish.

**Interviewer:** Mm okay. That sounds like a good place to stop, is there anything you’d like to say about your favourite things that you haven’t had a chance to?

**Funmi:** (erm) they were both given to me by special people.

**Interviewer:** So that’s quite important for you.

**Funmi:** Even if the person who it to me is like my mum’s friend or my dad’s friend, it’s still important to me because that person took the time to look for something that I would like, and thought she’ll like that, they still took the time to decide whether I would like it. So it’s nice.

**Interviewer:** Okay so I’ll stop the recording.