

Westley's Story

Westley was murdered at a cash-point in 2005. He died from a single stab wound. He was 27. He lived in Colchester in Essex. His story made national news.

Two men were arrested and charged with his murder. One man, who was 32, was convicted of murder, and received a life sentence in prison. The other man was jailed for manslaughter and was given seven years.

The murder happened as a result of an argument at the cash-point. It was believed to have been started over who was at the front of the queue.

What started out as something so tiny and trivial ended up having such a massive effect on so many people. This is the reality of what can happen if you carry a knife and things get out of hand. How would you feel if it happened to someone you know?

Look at the list of people below - all of these people were affected in some way as a result of what happened to Westley.

WESTLEY'S KILLERS

WESTLEY'S FRIEND

THE KILLER'S CHILDREN

WESTLEY'S PARENTS

A WITNESS AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME

THE POLICE OFFICER WHO INVESTIGATES THE CRIME

For each of the above characters, answer the following questions;

- How would it change my life?
- How do I feel?
- What am I going to do now?

Extension

Faces - look at these faces below- Westley drew them when he was 12. Either using one, two, or all three faces- look at the emotions and expressions of the characters in the pictures.

- Which do you think each of these characters would be in the story? For example, would they be; the victim, attacker, victim's friend, or maybe a relative, or a witness to the attack?
- Give a reason for your choice- why do you think a face might represent a character?

