

## **ENGLISH: THE MEMBER OF THE WEDDING**

**Having a sense of being different makes it difficult to belong.**

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It is human nature to want to belong. All humans demonstrate defining and determining characteristics that affect our ability to connect with others. Whether it is outwardly doing ourselves to fit into a group or deliberately contrasting how we feel and look, how we are as a person can change how we belong. Being someone with different looks and personalities can cause isolation, people can go to extremes to fit in to the desired club or social group although being an individual can mean a person develops a strong sense of identity.

In Carson McCuller's book "The member of the wedding" the protagonist "Frankie" "belonged to no club and was a member of nothing in the world." Frankie was a sure individual someone who didn't follow the crowd. Although Frankie was not a "member of nothing" by choice her actions and personality influenced this. Frankie didn't care much for others, she didn't want to be a friend, she only wanted to have friends so therefore sometimes people didn't want to be friends with her. At the start of summer Frankie felt she was too 'tall' being this physically different caused Frankie to feel like she doesn't belong, although this reason wasn't what caused her to feel so isolated her idea that she wasn't like all the other boys and girls made her different to other children her age. Throughout the book Frankie demonstrates an unconnected feeling between her mind and her body. Frankie scrapes the dead skin of her feet, with a knife, this painful image, of something that not many people would be able to, if another factor that shows Frankie's difference from other people her age. When she does this and other things such as knife throwing it causes her housekeeper Berenice to scold her and they argue. When this happens Frankie continues to feel unwanted and out of place.

As a society we place a great deal of impact on being a part of something, belonging to something. Our fashion sense and the clothes we wear demonstrate this. If you walk down the street in an all black outfit, with coloured hair you are labelled as an "emo". If you have a long flowing skirt and a flower in your hair you're a hippy. But what do these labels really tell you about the person that is wearing the clothes. Think about it not a lot really. All people who have a similar dress sense or a classified as "the same" while they are often seen hanging around together this is not always the case. The "emo" lady who you just crossed the street to avoid is someone's daughter and may even be someone's mum sister, brother or friend. This person may change outfits and become a completely different person when at home or other people. There are many groups where to fit in to do need to wear a certain outfit or have a certain fashion sense. School is an example of this, the uniform that all students wear defines you as a student of that school. The same happens with the sporty people that run early in the morning. The people that wear short shorts, and a singlet to go run in the morning get labelled as the fitness freaks, whether this is something that you every day or the first time you have ever done this. Looking like a stereotype can mean a label even if just for a short amount of time.

People who are different and unusual tend to stand out. Evidence of this can be seen in certain nightclubs and parties. The majority of the people that are at these places are wearing a face full or make up, short dresses and high shoes. If a person were to walk in a long skirt and t-shirt then they would stand out like sore thumb. People who stand out can be unwanted by certain groups because of how they are but people can also feel like they don't belong because of how it feels to them. In the TV show H2O Just add Water the three main characters are mermaids, they have a friend Lewis who is not. The 3 girls are always friendly kind and welcoming to Lewis but he never really feels like he belongs. He always feels like the odd one out because he can't leap into water; appear with a tail and breathe while swimming. Although Lewis doesn't feel like an outcast he doesn't always feel like he fits in entirely with his friends.