

Girls' Attitude Survey

Part A

August is judged, bullied and shunned for the way he looks. As we've been reading the book, we've found out what that feels like from August's point of view. But it's not only August or people with facial disfigurement this happens to. It happens to girls too.

Girlguiding published the results of a survey on girls' attitudes in 2016. Here are some of the findings. The questions will help you to explore the data and understand how girls feel about 'looks'. You might feel the same way yourself.

1. In 2016, Girlguiding asked whether girls were happy with the way they looked:



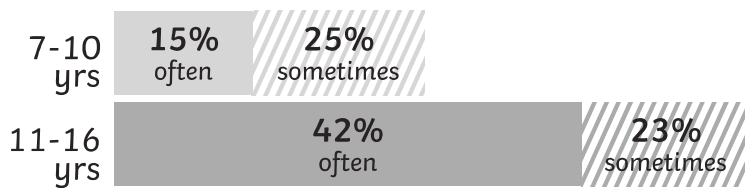
They asked the same question in the 2011 survey:



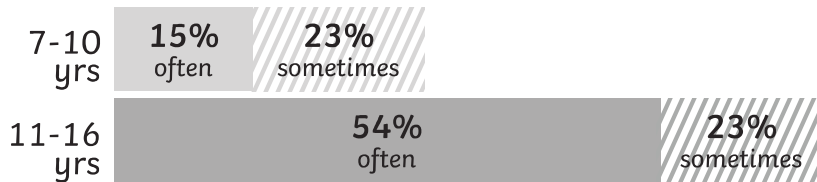
a. What was the difference in attitudes between 2011 and 2016?

b. Can you think of any reasons why girls may have become increasingly unhappy with their looks over the last few years?

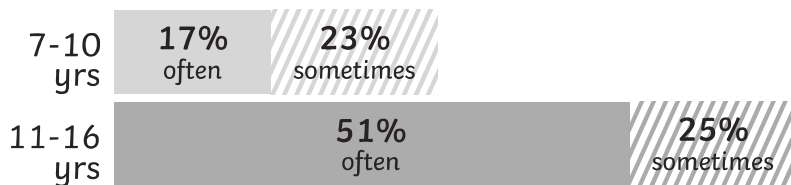
2. In 2016, girls were asked whether they were ashamed of their looks.



They were asked whether they ever felt that they weren't pretty enough.



Girls were asked if they ever felt they should lose weight.



Can you describe any similarities or differences in the data between the three questions?

3. Imagine that you have been asked to write a paragraph for a news article on these statistics. Can you summarise some of the data, explain what you think it means for girls and what you think of the situation?

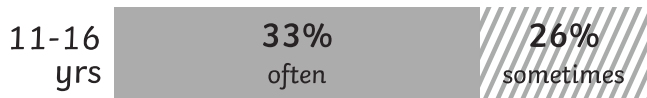
Girls' Attitude Survey

Part B

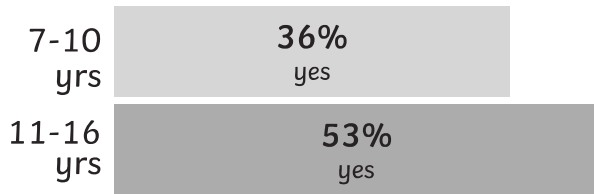
August is judged, bullied and shunned for the way he looks. As we've been reading the book, we've found out what that feels like from August's point of view. But it's not only August or people with facial disfigurement this happens to. It happens to girls too.

Girlguiding published the results of a survey on girls' attitudes in 2016. Here are some of the findings. The questions will help you to explore the data and understand how girls feel about 'looks'. You might feel the same way yourself.

11-16 year olds were asked if they ever compared themselves and their looks to celebrities:



Girls were asked if other people made them feel that their looks were the most important thing about them:



Remember pictures like these are often retouched with a computer to make the woman look prettier:



1. Look at the statistics and pictures on the last page of the Girlguiding report. What do you think? Talk to a partner and write down your opinions. If you wish, you can use these prompt words: real, role models, peer pressure and media.

2. What percentage of 7-10 year olds do you think felt they needed to be perfect 'often'?

3. What percentage of 11-16 year olds do you think answered in the same way?

4. What do you think were the percentages that 'sometimes' felt like that for both groups?

5. Now compare your answers with those of the survey. What percentage of girls felt that they needed to be perfect sometimes or more often than that?

6. Are your estimates different to the survey percentages? Do the girls' answers to this survey question surprise you? Write down your own thoughts.

7. Can you draw your own stacked bar graph (horizontal or vertical) from the survey data for this question?

8. They were asked their opinions too. What do you think the responses were to these questions?

9. Girls were asked whether people think their looks are the most important thing about them. Draw your own bar chart with your estimates and then look at the answers below to compare your estimate with the results of the survey.
10. They were asked whether they felt women were judged more on their appearance than by their ability. Draw your own bar chart and then look at the answers to compare your estimate with the results of the survey.

Challenge Task

Another survey question asked what girl's opinions were on this statement:

*"Women have to be attractive as well as talented to succeed.
For men, it doesn't matter what they look like."*

Talk in a group and decide whether you agree or disagree with the statement. Draw or create a suitable graph or chart to represent your group's opinions.

Look at the bottom of the page for the attitudes of the girls in the survey, convert that to a similar chart and place it next to your own attitudes chart. Are there any differences in the two charts? If so, can you think of any reasons for differences?

Girls' Attitude Survey Answers

Part A

1. a. What was the difference in attitudes between 2011 and 2016?

Various answers: 7-10s 9% increase in unhappiness with looks, 11-16s 6% increase. Unhappiness with the way they looked increased for girls between 2011 and 2016. Girls have become unhappier with their looks since 2011.

- b. Can you think of any reasons why girls may have become increasingly unhappy with their looks over the last few years?

Possible answers with further explanation: increased use of social media, media attitudes to women, the influence of sexist images on the Internet.

2. Can you describe any similarities or differences in the data between the three questions?

Example answer: 7-10 year olds responses to feeling ashamed and not pretty enough are roughly the same. They are slightly more likely to feel that they should lose weight. 11-16 year olds were much more likely to feel negatively about their looks and weight than 7-10 year olds. They felt more concerned about their prettiness than their weight.

Challenge Task

Imagine that you have been asked to write a paragraph for a news article on these statistics. Can you summarise some of the data, explain what you think it means for girls and what you think of the situation?

Example paragraph: Girls were asked whether they were ashamed of their looks, whether they felt pretty enough or that they should lose weight. The results are shocking. 40% of 7-10s feel ashamed of their looks and a staggering 65% of 11-16 year olds felt ashamed. What are we doing to these girls that makes them feel so self-conscious about themselves? Something should be done!

Part B

1. Look at the statistics and pictures on the last page. What do you think? If you wish, you can use these prompt words: real, role models, peer pressure, media. Talk to a partner and write down your opinions.

Various answers (hopefully) related to the pressure on girls for them to look good. Perhaps mentioning make up, retouching photos, plastic surgery or age.

2. What percentage of 7-10 year olds do you think felt they needed to be perfect 'often'?

23%.

3. What percentage of 11-16 year olds do you think answered in the same way?

51%.

4. What do you think were the percentages that 'sometimes' felt like that for both groups?

7-10 year olds: 30%, 11-16 year olds: 21%.

5. Now compare your answers with those of the survey. What percentage of girls felt that they needed to be perfect sometimes or more often than that?

7-10 year olds: 53%, 11-16 year olds: 92%.

6. Are your estimates different to the survey percentages? Does the girls' answers to this survey question surprise you? Write down your own thoughts.

Various Answers.

7. Can you draw your own stacked bar graph (horizontal or vertical) from the survey data for this question?

Various Answers.

8. They were asked their opinions too. What do you think the responses were to these questions?

Various Answers.

9. Girls were asked whether people think their looks are the most important thing about them. Draw your own bar chart with your estimates and then look at the answers below to compare your estimate with the results of the survey.

7-10 year olds: 36%, 11-16 year olds: 54%.

10. They were asked whether they felt women were judged more on their appearance than by their ability. Draw your own bar chart and then look at the answers below to compare your estimate with the results of the survey.

7-10 year olds: 35%, 11-16 year olds: 75%.

★ Challenge Task ★

Another survey question asked what girls opinions were on this statement:

"Women have to be attractive as well as talented to succeed. For men, it doesn't matter what they look like."

Talk in a group and decide whether you agree or disagree with the statement. Draw or create a suitable graph or chart to represent your group's opinions. Look at the bottom of the page for the attitudes of the girls in the survey, convert that to a similar chart and place it next to your own attitudes chart. Are there any differences in the two charts? If so, can you think of any reasons for differences?

Answers to include the data stating 42% agree 34% disagree.