

HOW TO SURVIVE TEENAGE ANGST



The Dark Poet

TELLTALE SIGNS: Black clothes, dark lipstick or nail polish, beret, cape of any color, carries book at all times, sullen, avoids direct sunlight.

WHAT HE/SHE WANTS: New family (suspects switched at birth), castle on a stormy heath, fangs, to write own zine.

WHAT TO SAY: “What a lovely moon tonight.”

WHAT TO GIVE: *The Collected Works of Edgar Allan Poe.*



The Spaz

TELLTALE SIGNS: Bumps into people and things, nervous tics, resembles overgrown puppy, tape on glasses, menace on the dance floor.

WHAT HE/SHE WANTS: Coordination, timing, to make the winning shot, cancellation of gym class.

WHAT TO SAY: “Don’t worry, it will heal fast.”

WHAT TO GIVE: Helmet, kneepads.



The Lovelorn

TELLTALE SIGNS: Flavored lip gloss, body glitter, furtive glances, seductive gait, nervous laughter, serial crushes.

WHAT HE/SHE WANTS: First kiss, boyfriend/girlfriend, to wear his/her Varsity jacket, someone to linger at locker with, recipient for reams of love poetry.



The Rebel

TELLTALE SIGNS: Black leather or red canvas jacket, white T-shirts with smokes rolled up in sleeve, belligerent, curt, squinty.

WHAT HE/SHE WANTS: To be freed from the shackles of oppression, parent to sweat over threats to move out, love and affection, boundaries, warm milk, cat to sleep on pillow.

WHAT TO SAY: “If nothing matters, why not enjoy?”

WHAT TO GIVE: Cool jeans.



The Loner

TELLTALE SIGNS: Stands near walls or in corners, travels solo by choice, slinks around house and school, headphones, heavy book bag, big sunglasses.

WHAT HE/SHE WANTS: Privacy, solitude, time for reading and thinking, an end to prying stares, flat screen TV, year off to meditate.

WHAT TO SAY: Nothing.

WHAT TO GIVE: Isolation tank.



The Egotist

TELLTALE SIGNS: Satisfied smirk, knows most everything, pained at having to listen to and make conversation at dinner table, coordinated separates, booming voice, eye rolling, heavy sighs, excellent grooming habits.

WHAT HE/SHE WANTS: Recognition, confirmation, validation, vindication, personal assistant.

WHAT TO SAY: “That’s nice, dear.”

WHAT TO GIVE: Monocle.



The Worry Wart

TELLTALE SIGNS: Wringing of hands, nail biting, furrowed brow, downcast glances, makes lots of lists.

WHAT HE/SHE WANTS: End to contingency planning, someone else to take charge, early acceptance into college of choice, fun.

WHAT TO SAY: “In the long run, it will all be okay.”

WHAT TO GIVE: Worry beads.



The Looks Police

TELLTALE SIGNS: Relentless self-scrutiny, armed with fashion magazines, water bottle and gym bag, avoids salad dressing.

WHAT HE/SHE WANTS: Clear dewy skin, to be “discovered,” to lose 20 pounds, to be leggy, boobs (if female), to lose boobs (if male), six-pack abs, good hair, admiring glances.

WHAT TO SAY: “You look great!”

WHAT TO GIVE: Magnifying mirror.

