

Jennie and family: Is it fair?

[Redbridge, Outer London]

Jennie: I don't like the word poor. I mean, in a way, yes, I am poor. Poor – it means you can't afford anything. You can't afford what you need.

Jordan: My friends have Blackberry phones, iPhones, new shoes, good clothes, better clothes than me, better houses. I don't mind anyway. As long as I've got a family and a roof over my head then I am fine.

Michael: We're not actually poor like in a living on the streets way. We ain't got the perfect clothes in the world, clothes that other people's kids have, like combat jeans, like Nike trainers but we're happy with what we've got as long as we can live.

Mark: We've got this house; we've got friends and stuff like that. So I don't think we are actually poor. Sometimes I think we're poor, because like we can't get money to spend on like things we want, like toys and stuff, so I kind of think and I kind of don't think we are poor.

Michael: It's not unfair and it is unfair, cos like other people get to have their houses, all the money and sometimes people don't have the money even if they save up a lot of things.

[Jennie mainly buys frozen food as this is cheaper.]

Jennie: I've got a few bits in there, pastry, which I never use, I don't know why I got it. Chicken drumsticks, which I am going to do today for the kids for their dinner, with some chips, beans and spaghetti.

They mainly have fruit and veg over the weekends and then usually if I do get fruit, cos I have three sons, they tend to eat it as soon as I get it, so therefore I can't go and get any more because I don't have the money to go and get any more. I have to budget what I'm spending.

I only tend to eat one meal a day and that does me, cos I like to make sure I got for my children.

I would like to be able to afford proper meals for my sons and for myself. I have to just go along with whatever's happening from one day to the next day and then just hope that it will get better.

Jordan: My friends talk about with their other friends what they did on their holidays, to me as well. And I get really jealous because I can't go. My teacher wanted to know where we would like to go in the future and here is it:

It was a Friday afternoon and the sun was high in the sky. I was on a jumbo jet flying to Spain. I was flying first class, which was fantastic because I got whatever I wanted whenever I wanted it. And was a full English breakfast, I could see the bacon was cooked to perfection with its eye catching colour of pink with a crisp edge. It was perfect. We finally arrived in sunny Spain, we gathered our belongings and set off. The taxi took us to a 5 star hotel, the staff was very welcoming. We had a fiesta where food was magnificent and smelt perfect, taste perfect, looked perfect, feels perfect; the sound of music was perfect.

It makes me think I want to go to Spain, it does.

[The family has never been on holiday at home or abroad.]

Michael: Have you got the kerching kerching?

Jennie: No I haven't got the kerching kerching.

Mark: What's a kerching kerching?

Jennie: Money.

Jennie: Having to see my children not having a stable place or, you know, proper food. You know, good clothes. You know, a better life. I would want better for them.

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