

In my own words, having mental and emotional issues is one of the hardest unnecessary things that any child will ever have to overcome. Take it from someone who knows.

Personally, I have plenty of mental disorders. I have ADHD, OCD, and aspergers (I just love that word!). It makes it hard for me to focus on one thing for even a short period of time. I can hardly ever sit still, and it's difficult to understand things the first time.

I think that having a disorder, no matter which one, is nothing more than a cruel blessing. You act differently than all of the other kids at your school, and you're labeled the freak, something that I have personal experience with. And while it's close to impossible to make friends that *won't* use you, it's a big hurdle in the "track of challenges" as I like to call it, and my friends hate it. It's a huge accomplishment to yourself when you take the first leap and move onto the next.

But when these disorders can seem like a real pain in the gluteus maximus, they have some really awesome rewards. It's like saying, "I was really mean to you, so I brought you something to make up for it." You seem a lot smarter than other people do, even if they deny it. I've known, if I counted right, 9 different people that I've gone to school with, and they're geniuses. They have autism, dyslexia, ADHD, OCD, aspergers, ADD, and some of them have some really unspellable ones, even for me. They're some of the smartest kids that I have EVER met.

But when you have the disorder, you really can't tell you have when you don't remind yourself of it. You think you're normal, that everyone else struggles with the same things that you do. You're just like everyone else, one of the crowd. Which you're not. Because you'll always stick out, whether it's for a good or bad reason. Believe me, being a boring old crowd member is just lame.

And that's my look at mental/emotional disorders in a nutshell.

-Kail, Age 14