

▶ SCENARIO 3 — KAYA

When I was diagnosed with HIV 18 years ago I was devastated: I thought I wouldn't live to see my young children grow up and that HIV would have a terrible impact on my life. I realise now how wrong I was. HIV has never been a barrier to me doing anything - in fact I've had two more children, both of whom are HIV negative and I expect to live into old age like anyone else.

Telling other people can still be hard, because I'm worried about how they'll react. You can be pleasantly surprised though. My best friend was fantastic when I told her – she said that she loved me and that she was there to support me in whatever way I wanted. She was also really conscious of the fact that this was my personal information and she didn't tell others about my HIV status without my permission.

The people who don't react well are usually like that because they don't know anything about HIV and they're scared. That's understandable, but it's not fair that people living with HIV should have to do all the educating. I think the Government needs to do more to educate people about HIV.

THINK ABOUT: ▶▶

- ▶ Who (or what) in this story is making Kaya feel good?
- ▶ Who (or what) in this story is making Kaya feel bad?
- ▶ Why might Kaya be worried about how people will react when she tells them she has HIV?
- ▶ What was good about the way Kaya's best friend reacted when told about HIV?
- ▶ What are your feelings towards Kaya after reading her story?

