

Pseudonym	Dialect Zone	Provenance	Sex	Age	Educational Level	Religion	Ch.7 Text No.
Mr. Wilson (MW)	MUE	DUA, Co. Derry	M	48	PG qualification	C	7.2.20

- KPC** We were talking about favourite teachers.
- MW** But then there were others who were really very, very, very good teachers and very dedicated.
- KPC** Mm.
- MW** And, eh, some who were pretty strict, but they, they really did a lot more than you would expect to, to help us and stuff.
- KPC** Mm.
- MW** Particularly with the 1K class. Yeah, so we, we liked that.
- KPC** The Krypton Factor class.
- MW** I always liked Art, so I liked Art no matter who taught it. Always hated Latin, so...
- KPC** Do you think you got that a bit from your cousin, Josh?
- MW** Em, Josh was very clever and he, he was very good. He, em, was very good at Art, and very good at most things. I kind of benefited a little bit because if one of the cousins could be clever, and he was two years ahead of me, so... a year and a half, so...
- KPC** So you didn't have to be?
- MW** No. They expected it of me, so they... there was a, that sense of, 'You, your cousin's good enough. You must be. So stop messing about and concentrate.' And all my reports always said that...
- KPC** Mm.
- MW** ... – 'Peadar's a daydreamer. Always will be. *[laughs]*. If you catch him on a good day, you could see he's clever. If you don't, then forget about it.'
- KPC** *[laughs]*

**MW** Em, so that came across... all my reports were the same. My mother... my father really wanted us to go University and to break this working-class, not being able to get out of Derry, mould.

**KPC** Mm.

**MW** He...

**KPC** So that was a big motivation for you, then, do you think?

**MW** Yeah. He taught me stuff when I was a kid, walking on beaches and stuff, about...

**KPC** Mm.

**MW** ... all round the world and peoples, and, 'Don't stay in Derry. Get away and see it all. And then if you want to come back, come back and stay. But if you want to stay away, there's nothing wrong with that either.'

**KPC** Mm.

**MW** Em, my mother didn't help. She, she told me from a very early age that I wasn't quite one of the family, because I never quite fitted, that I was a gypsy and they, they got me from the gypsies.

**KPC** *[laughs]*

**MW** And if I misbehaved, they'd put me in a children's home.

**KPC** *[laughs]*

**MW** Which was 150 yards up the street, the Nazareth House was just up the street.

**KPC** So you'd be close to home?

**MW** My sister came for me one day to take me. *[laughs]*. I was, I think I was about, I must have been about 10. I was old enough to know better, but Monica...

**KPC** *[laughs]*

**MW** ... our Monica is, was the other mischievous one. Monica came and said something like, she called me away from my friends and says, 'Peadar,' and I was, 'What?' She says, 'You have to go to the children's home now.' I says, 'What?' She said, 'You have to go and stay in the Nazareth House for a while. We don't have enough money to feed everybody'. And we were a big family, and I thought, 'Right,' I thought, 'Okay, em, em...' 'No, you don't need to say goodbye to anybody. We'll come and see you soon and

we'll, we're allowed up on Sunday or whatever', and and walked me up to the Nazareth House.

**KPC** *[laughs]*

**MW** So she was walking along quite happy, and I was walking half a yard behind her thinking, trying to work all this out in my head, thinking, 'Okay, I'm doing the right thing for the family, and, and they must, times must be hard'. And when we got to the Nazareth House, I'd stopped and she'd carried on walking. I said, 'Monica, where are you going?' She said, 'I'm going to the chip shop.' And I says, 'What about...?' She says, 'Och, Peadar. Come on.' *[laughs]*. So...

**KPC** So she had you wound up like a, a wee clock?

**MW** Oh, aye. Yeah. Our Monica was, was great. She...

**KPC** What else did she do to you, do you remember?

**MW** She... Monica used to be able to fight the boys.

**KPC** Did she?

**MW** The big boys. Monica... if anybody, any of the big boys bullied me, Monica would just go out and flatten the big boys, even Dom McCartney, and he was, he was a big...

**KPC** Bruiser.

**MW** ... dangerous, dangerous boy. Yeah. Always has been. But Monica could, our, our Monica could, em, take on anybody. Still can.