

## The Test Character Biography

Ellen Fideli

Character: Avery

In the start of *The Test* Avery is 16 years old. She was born on September 27th 2003 in Providence hospital to Mike and Pamala Jones. They brought her back to their middle class town of Weymouth Massachusetts just days after her birth. Avery was the only child of the two and she loved it. For her first two years they gave her all the attention. Her mother quit her job as a middle school history teacher to become a full time mother. Her father managed the Weymouth Club, which was a resort filled with pools, tennis courts, a gym, and activities for the rich. When both parents were home, they played with Avery constantly, building an inseparable bond. Until sometime around her third birthday her parents would get into many fights, of course Avery didn't know what about, all she knew is that her father would come home less and less and her mother would be left crying after he left. This unhealthy relationship led to Avery getting less attention from her parents. Being stripped of something she endured the most took a massive toll on her. She became an extremely emotional child when she was entering kindergarten. Still wetting herself when scared or sad at the age of six. Her parents still legally being together plummeted young Avery into a depression. She didn't have much friends on top of that either. Avery would go to school, occasionally play with the other kids but hated every second of it. She would much rather sit in the library and read a book, since that was the only way she could escape reality. When her mother enrolled her in sports she threw a fit before every practice or game. This went on for four years until her mother gave up on athletics. Avery was now ten. At this time her father also gave up on his family, moving away and never to be heard or seen from again. At this point, the school guidance counselor recommended Pamala to take Avery to see a therapist. At first Avery didn't like her therapist, Ms. Brady, but eventually opened up to her. Ms.

Brady created a safe and loving environment for Avery where she felt able to talk about all her problems with her. Years of therapy helped Avery overcome her trauma and become a young happy child she always wanted to be. Going into middle school, Avery was able to make connections with other kids and enjoyed dance lessons. Her troubled childhood did leave marks on Avery such as severe anxiety and mood swings. To help calm her nerves Avery was prescribed medication to take daily for her anxiety. Her meds helped her alot and kept enabling her to enjoy her activities. Avery's middle school was everything she wanted it to be. She felt welcomed by her friends and teachers. Her and her mother also became extremely close. Avery's mom became her best friend during this time. When highschool rolled around Avery's anxiety increased. Fears that her friend group would change, she wouldn't make the dance team, and she wouldn't be able to handle all the academics. Her mother re enrolled her with Ms. Brady after years of being apart, and Ms. Brady helped Avery through her entrance into high school. Her freshman year was rocky considering her friend group did change, but instead of falling apart it added new members. She didn't make the dance team, but was able to focus on her academics and join a few clubs instead. Avery would freak out about tests and quizzes at least a week in advance from their date. She couldn't imagine doing poorly on them. Her anxiety towards school work was shown through copious amounts of her trying to memorize material. Trying to recite a textbook is nearly impossible, and doing that for five classes at once is even harder. Over stressing on assignments became another factor in her life. It wasn't until her sophomore year she learned how to properly study for tests. Also at this time Avery was learning how to drive, taking Drivers Ed and driving hours. She'd sit in her driving class and take copious notes and make sure she knew all the rules of the road before she got behind the wheel. But actually driving was a lot different then reading about it. Avery would often make mistakes such as jerking the brake, driving way under the speed limit, and parallel parking was her biggest fear. As months went on, she became better at these aspects of driving, but still winced everytime she got into a car. All leading up to her road test that March. Scared but

ready, Avery walked into the DMV, got assigned a time, and sat on the stiff wooden bench. The movie picks up here.