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# Who are We?

## Can Our Past Decide Our Future?

Does our environment dictate who we are as people? There are trends that we can see in society that indicate as such. We see some of these trends in some of the books we read this year. *The Watchmen* is a novel which dives deeper into each hero's backgrounds which indicate who they come to be as people. There is Rorschach who was abused as a child. We can see how that affected him in the future. Rorschach became cynical, somewhat, abusive, and cold. He was a very harsh person who used the psychiatric help to help define himself in his alternate persona. There is also the Silk Spectre who was always taught to follow in her mother's footsteps. She was trained at a young age to be a superhero like her mother. She grew up and did just that. This idea both compares and contrasts with *The Other Wes Moore*. We have one Wes who grew up in a very rough neighborhood surrounded by drug dealers. This Wes had issues with prison time, and had a really rough life and became a product of his environment. The Other Wes is an anomaly He was able to escape a very similar environment. He ended up being put into a military school and fought and clawed his way up in life and eventually became a successful entrepreneur, and worked under Secretary of State, Condeleezza Rice. This is one example of a person who worked against the grain and escaped a path of suffering. The two Wes's lives were very similar before their teenage years. After that they split and embarked on several very different paths. This is very strong evidence against the idea that our environment leads to who and what we will be.