

## TODAY'S PUNK .... MEET AKALA

1 Yes, I grew up on the dole in a single parent family  
Been through a little bit of tragedy  
Yes I was around drugs and violence before the  
day I started secondary

5 And that's part of it not half of it, get the picture,  
the rest ain't necessary  
Growing up, got a little caught up, but that ain't  
even half of my life  
Also given the knowledge of self

10 That is all we actually need to survive  
If you saw me aged nine, reading Malcom just fine  
Teachers still treated me stupid  
Students that couldn't speak English, they put me  
in groups with

15 And the irony is some of the first men to give me  
schooling  
You would call gangsters but I already explained,  
We know what the truth is  
They used to say 'Don't be like me'

20 Yeah I got a name and dough on the street  
Night time comes, I can't sleep  
And that's the part rappers don't speak  
We don't hit the road cos we are thugs  
Don't come out of the womb, wanting to sell drugs

25 If we got the right guidance and love  
Would we fight people just like us?  
How could I knock the hustle to get by?  
How do you think I ate as a child?  
Judge no one, done many things wrong

30 I just don't boast about it in songs  
But listen to my older bars  
I was just as confused as you probably are.

from *'Fire In The Booth'*, by Akala (2012)