**YOUR JOB IS TO:**

1. **Thoughtfully NOTATE the text (make comments and questions on the page) as you read**
2. **Circle any WORDS your aren’t sure of, and try to figure out their meanings**
3. **Complete the FOOD FOR THOUGHT section below the article**

# Teen hopes story averts drunk drivers

### N.B.'s impaired driving statistics are 'terrible': RCMP

#### [CBC News](http://www.cbc.ca/news/credit.html) CBC.ca December 10, 2010

Kali O'Dell tells her story about life after losing her two parents in a crash caused by a drunk driver. (YouTube)

A 16-year old New Brunswick girl whose parents were killed by a drunk driver is hoping her story will stop others from drinking and driving this holiday season.

Kali O'Dell is being featured in the annual safety campaign by the RCMP and is the centerpiece of a new video by MADD Canada.

In a three-minute video posted on YouTube, O'Dell describes how the family was driving back from showing off their Halloween costumes to their grandparents, and then the memory of the family's car being hit by a drunk driver.

"I remember the car spinning and spinning and spinning. I remember screaming at the top of my lungs because I was terrified. I had no idea what was going on," she said.

"And when it stopped spinning, I remember it being black and almost like you were numb. I wondered if I had died."

She also tells about the last time she spoke with her parents and kissed her parents.

"I remember leaning forward and I knew I couldn't save mom, and dad was gone. I could tell already so I kissed their cheeks and told them I loved them," Kali said in the video.

"That's the last time I kissed my mother."

Gregory O'Dell, 33, and Laura, 36, were killed instantly when their vehicle was struck on the evening of Oct. 29, 2006, by a minivan driven by Valmont Antoine LeBlanc.

**'Living without my parents is absolutely terrifying.'**— Kali O'Dell

LeBlanc's minivan crossed the centre line on Route 106 near Salisbury and smashed into the O'Dell's sedan.

In 2008, LeBlanc was sentenced to five years in prison after pleading guilty to charges of impaired driving causing death and impaired driving causing bodily harm.

In Kali's short video, she also describes the ongoing pain of the accident, four years later.

"Living without my parents is absolutely terrifying. There are days you want to run to your mother and bawl your eyes out and you just can't. I'm going to graduate high school in two years and she won't be there. I'm never going to have my father walk me down the aisle when I get married."

After the fatal crash, then Liberal premier Shawn Graham promised to review the province's impaired driving legislation.

In 2008, the provincial government introduced stiffer penalties on those caught drinking and driving.

### N.B. statistics are 'terrible'

RCMP Sgt. Claude Tremblay, the regional manager for traffic services in New Brunswick, said when he played Kali's video at the launch of Operation Christmas, everyone had tears in their eyes.

"Our statistics are terrible, actually, in the province. We still have a lot of people driving while impaired during the holidays - year round, actually," O'Dell said.

"The season is coming and we really would like to emphasize that this year."

Tremblay said he hopes people will watch the video produced by MADD Canada and he hopes Kali's story will have an impact.

"What we're trying to show people here are the real victims. I mean this young girl and her brother will suffer for the rest of their lives," Tremblay said.

So far this year, 73 people have been killed on highways patrolled by the New Brunswick RCMP, up from 57 last year.

In nearly 40 per cent of those cases, alcohol is believed to have been a factor, compared to last year when impaired driving was linked to roughly 25 per cent of the fatalities.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**
**1. This text has been copied from the website *www*.*cbc.ca/canada/new brunswick.* Why did the author choose to highlight almost every sentence on its own rather than combine them into more formal paragraphs?**

**2. Is this campaign going to be effective in reducing the numbers of people who choose to drink and drive? Explain.**

**3. Why do you think MADD has chosen a young adult like Kali O’Dell to tell her story? Who might MADD be trying to target or reach by using her as a spokesperson? Is it an effective choice?**