

# Tattle vs. Telling

**Time needed:** 25 – 30 minutes

**Recommended Level:** Grades PK-4

**Categories:** Bystanders, Empowering, Friendship issues, Reporting

**Common Core Standard(s):** Writing to convey information,  
Speaking & Listening

**Purpose:** Students will strengthen their abilities of standing up to bullies.

## DISCUSSION:

Talk about being safe in school. Ask the students what makes them feel safe at school. What is a bully? Have you ever been bullied or seen someone else being bullied? Tell the students you will be reading a book called *The Recess Queen* by Alexis O'Neill. The main character's name is Mean Jean the Recess Queen. Why do you think Mean Jean might be a bully?

## ACTIVITY:

Read the story. After reading, use a chalkboard, flipchart, etc. to present three strategies for dealing with a bully: walk, talk, or tell. Discuss what each of these strategies means.

Review the following chart explaining the difference between tattling and telling. The chart adapted from the book *Bully Proofing Your School*, by Carla Garrity and others.

## FOLLOW-UP:

(Use the following T-chart as a reference or delete examples and print off a blank copy for students to complete)

Discuss the following:

What happened to help Mean Jean change?

What did Katie Sue do to make a difference in the way the other students felt about Mean Jean?

What was Mean Jean's new name?

Why did Katie Sue's plan for dealing with a bully work?

If Mean Jean really just wanted friends, why do you think she was a bully?

Why does talking to a bully not always work?

### TATTLING

The purpose is to get someone in trouble.

The problem can be handled by yourself.

The problem is unimportant.

The behavior of the person may be annoying, but it is harmless.

The person's behavior is accidental.

### TELLING

The purpose is to keep someone safe.

The problem needs help from an adult to solve.

The problem is important.

The behavior of the person is harmful, dangerous, or hurtful.

The person's behavior is on purpose.



Helping Everyone with Anti-Bullying,  
Respect & Tolerance

Duplication and distribution of this lesson plan is permitted and encouraged.

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