

What Is Your Role?

Time needed: 40 minutes

Recommended Level: All grades

Categories: Bystanders, Helping victims, Role playing

Common Core Standard(s): Speaking and Listening, Writing to convey information, Writing about literature

Purpose: Students will understand different roles in bullying and how different parties might feel in a bullying situation.

DISCUSSION:

Before beginning the lesson, you will need a set of cards for each small group. The set should consist of a bully card, a bullied card, and a bystander card. (These can be easily made with index cards.)

Read a range of bullying scenarios with the students. Discuss with the students what the role of a bully, bullied, and bystander might be. Ask students to consider the scenarios when completing the activity.

ACTIVITY:

Put students into groups of 3. Give each group a set of cards and tell them to pick a role. (Each student will have each role after 3 rounds, so it doesn't matter who picks what.)

Assign a scenario to each group. (Scenarios listed below lesson.)

Groups are to develop a short two-minute role-play based on their chosen scenario. Ensure each student is playing a specific role in the skit.

The facilitator may have the students write how they felt watching the skit, or the facilitator could invite students to share their feelings about how they felt. Ask the group to consider who else might come into the scenario and make

things worse or better for the person being bullied. Ask the students which character in the scenario had the most power to make things better.

Repeat this activity two more times, having students change roles so that they can have each role at least once.

FOLLOW-UP:

Discuss with students:

How did you feel watching the different scenarios?

Have you ever bullied someone?

Have you ever been bullied? How did you handle the situation?

SCENARIOS:

A. Josh and Brian are sitting at a lunch table with several open seats. Josh tells Marcus he can't sit down at the lunch table. Marcus sits down anyway. Josh flips Marcus's tray onto the floor and laughs, acting like Marcus dropped it.

B. Renee gives Georgia an invitation to her birthday party. Stephanie is standing right by them. Loud enough for her to hear, Renee says, "I only invited the best people to my party. Stephanie definitely isn't invited."



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- C. In P.E., Sam always throws balls at Ryan's head and pretends that it's an accident. After he throws a basketball at Ryan's head today, he laughs and winks at his friend Carl and sarcastically says, "Nice catch, Ryan."
- D. Sarah and Jon recently started going out. Sarah starts spreading rumors about Jon's old girlfriend Marcy. Jon knows the rumors are untrue.
- E. Scooter and Andy are 8th graders who sit by each other on the bus. Every day, Scooter makes Jack, a 6th grader, give him a dollar or he says he will beat him up.
- F. Heather spends the night at Tara's house. Tara gets online and sends an anonymous e-mail to Becky, a girl they know from school, telling her she is a loser and that no one likes her.
- G. Tony pretends that his Ipod has been stolen from his locker (though he actually left it at home.) He tells the teacher that he saw Adam take it. Later he tells Jacob that he got Adam in trouble, and laughs about it.
- H. Jackie sends Beth a note in class telling her, "Watch this." Then she pokes Cameron with her pencil and pretends like it wasn't her. She continues doing this all day while the teacher isn't looking.
- I. Jasmine creates a Facebook page called "Peyton is a Loser." Holly is the only person who knows that Jasmine is the manager of the page.



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