

Who's Laughing?

Time needed: 30-45 minutes

Recommended Level: All grades

Categories: Helping victims, Role-playing

Common Core Standard (s): Speaking & Listening,
Writing (optional)

Purpose: Students will witness one student's experience with bullies to understand that bullying can be extremely hurtful.

DISCUSSION:

Ask the students if they've ever seen someone do something foolish. Sure, we all have! Acting funny is a fun pastime for many of us, with both our friends and family. There is a time, though, when doing something foolish is NOT funny: when someone sets you up to look foolish, in front of other people. Unfortunately, this type of bullying is very hurtful and is often very embarrassing.

ACTIVITY:

Call on six volunteers to read/act out the play. (You can choose a seventh volunteer to read the narration if you choose.)

The class will role-play a scenario that happens in the school cafeteria. The cafeteria is crowded with many kids, and everyone is busy getting food, eating their lunch, and having fun with their friends.

There are 6 characters: Annie, Patrick, Pablo, Ava, Jaylen, and Mom

Annie, Patrick, and Ava are sitting at a lunch table. Pablo is going through the lunch line.

Patrick: (to Annie): Look at Pablo. He is such a dork!

Annie: I don't know...he seems okay to me.

Patrick: Humph. He is always looking at me like he has some sort of problem or something.

As Pablo walks, he stumbles over his feet. He looks around, embarrassed.

Annie (giggling): It looks like he even has trouble walking. What a loser!

Patrick: Hey...watch this.

Annie's eyes get wide with amusement as she sees Patrick slyly stick his leg out, directly in Pablo's path. Ava, who is sitting at a nearby table, notices...

Ava: Pablo! Watch out!

Just as Pablo turns to see who was calling his name, he trips over Patrick's extended leg. As he goes down, his cafeteria tray goes flying, and he lands hard on the ground with a painful-sounding thump. Everyone turns to stare and see what has happened.

Ava: Pablo! Are you all right?! She rushes to see if he is hurt.

Annie: Nice one, Patrick!

Patrick, grinning: Good grief, Pablo, did you have a nice 'trip'?!



Helping Everyone with Anti-Bullying,
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Everyone goes back to their lunches and the normal buzz of chatter resumes in the cafeteria. Pablo gets up slowly, staring at Patrick and Annie.

Ava: Come on, Pablo. Don't even worry about them. They are just mean. Let's go get you another lunch.

Pablo and Ava walk away.

Patrick: That was classic! He never even saw it coming.

Annie (*seeing their friend Jaylen approaching*): Jaylen! Hey! Come over here and hear what just happened.

Patrick: So, that nerd Pablo was coming this way, and he tripped over his own feet like couldn't even walk or something. He didn't think anyone saw, so he kept walking. When he got close to us, I stuck out my leg like this, and - ...

Patrick, Annie, and Jaylen turn when they hear someone cry out.

Mom: Ahhhh!

Patrick: Mom!?! What are you doing here?!

Mom lands on the ground, breaking her fall with her arms. The basketball uniform she had been carrying has landed on the floor - right in the middle of Pablo's lunch that had taken a spill only moments before.

Mom: Patrick! WHY did you TRIP me?!?

Patrick: Mom! I'm sorry! Well, I, uh, I didn't mean to...I mean, I didn't know you were coming! I swear, I didn't see you!

Mom: It doesn't matter if you saw me or not, why would you have your leg stuck out in the middle of the aisle for ANYONE to trip over?! Would you want someone to do that to you?"

Patrick (*eyes cast downward*): No, I wouldn't. In fact, I bet no one would. I guess I need to apologize to Pablo...

Mom's eyes follow Patrick's to Pablo, then looks at the lunch spilled on the floor.

Mom: Well, I think I know what happened here, and you're right - you do owe an apology. You forgot your basketball uniform this morning, and you have a game after school. I was trying to deliver it when you tripped me.

Mom holds up the uniform, which is now covered with globs of meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, and green beans, all mixed together with a little bit of milk.

Patrick: I can't wear that to the game! Everyone will laugh at me!

Mom: You don't have a choice. There is no time to get this washed before the game. I hope you think twice before pulling a stunt such as this. There's no reason to be mean to your classmates! I'm sure you thought it was funny at the time when you tripped poor Pablo, but who's laughing now? Good luck at that game, Patrick.

FOLLOW-UP:

Discuss the scenario with the students:

- Why was Pablo tripped? Did he do anything to instigate the bullying?
- Why did Patrick target Pablo?
- How could Patrick have shared his feelings about Pablo in a different way?
- Did Annie try to stand up for Pablo? What happened when she was not successful?
- What role did Ava play in this situation?
- What could Annie have done differently to maybe change Patrick's mind about being a bully?
- Although Patrick says he didn't mean to trip his mom, how did his actions land him in that situation?
- What lessons do you think all the students involved learned from this experience?

Optional:

Ask students if they've ever done something to someone that they now regret. Suggest that they write that person a letter, explaining what happened, why they did it, and asking for an apology. They can choose whether to give the letter to the person they had treated badly, or they can simply rip it up and throw it away.