

Bullying: Not Just a Guy Thing

Synopsis

Are school bullies always boys? Middle school student Amy would answer with a resounding, “No!” The unmerciful daily teasing by fellow student Stacie and her all-girl posse of bullies reduces Amy to tears, causes her to avoid other students and even to fear coming to school. Stacie’s bullying behavior is contrasted with straightforward advice from teachers and student counselors who discuss what bullying is, and how targeted students can – and should – take steps to end the harassment. Students learn that when bullies are confronted, it helps them realize that they are doing something wrong and gives them the opportunity to change their negative behavior. Amy’s situation changes for the better when another student, Lita, befriends her and share her own experiences as a target of bullying behavior. With support from Lita, Amy successfully confronts Stacie and her posse about their bullying. When Stacie’s conscience is awakened during a dream where her fellow students accuse her of bullying Amy, she later confesses her bullying behavior at a school assembly, leading to an emotionally dramatic turn-around in the lives of both students. The school’s observance of a Bully-Free Awareness Week provides a fitting framework for the story.

Questions to ask before viewing

1. Have you ever been bullied? What did the bully say or do to you? How did it make you feel?
2. What do you think would happen to you if you reported a bully to your teacher or other adult?
3. Do you think that bullies hurt other people in order to feel good about themselves? Why or why not?

Questions to ask after viewing

1. Why are you not considered a tattletale if you report a bully to a teacher or other adult? (You owe it to yourself and the bully to say something, so the bully will stop bothering you, and so he/she will have the chance to change his/her behavior.)
2. How did Stacie and her friends bully Amy? (They called her names, played mean tricks on her and spread untrue rumors about her.)
3. How did Amy respond to being bullied? (She cried, she avoided other students, she feared come to school and refused to get on the school bus.)
4. What should you say to someone who is bullying you? (I don’t like this. I don’t want you to talk to me that way and I don’t want you to intimidate me.)
5. What is the best thing you can do for a bully?(Let bullies know that they are

being bullies so they can change their behavior.)

6. What did Stacie realize during her dream? (That Amy was a good person, that Stacie was bullying her and hurting her feelings and that bullying was wrong.)
7. What did Stacie do when Amy didn’t accept her note of apology? (She confessed her bullying behavior at a school assembly and asked Amy to forgive her.)
8. What should you do if you report a bully to a teacher or other adult and nothing happens? (Tell someone else until you find someone who believes you and stops the bullying.)
9. What should you do if you see someone else being bullied? (Talk to the person being bullied and report the bully to a teacher or other adult.)
10. When bullying was defined in the video, what was said about power and emotions? (The bully is more powerful and more emotionally detached than the person being bullied.)

Annotation

When new student Amy is teased daily by Stacie and her all-girl posse of bullies, she becomes upset and afraid to come to school. Stacie's bullying behavior is contrasted with straightforward advice from teachers and student counselors about bullying and how to end the harassment. After coaching from new friend, Lita, Amy successfully confronts Stacie, leading to an emotionally dramatic turn-around in the lives of both students.

Length

30 Minutes

Subject Areas

Character Education, Values and Self-Esteem, Conflict Resolution

Audience Level

Grades 4-8

Catalog Number

2856-EN-VID-NR

Related titles in the AIMS collection

#2663-EN-VID: Teen Files Flipped: Bullies, Loners and Violence

#2552-EN-VID: No Way ... to Treat Others

#2496-EN-VID: Bully No More: Stopping the Abuse

#2497-EN-VID: Teasing: It's No Joke



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Discussion Guide

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Objectives

- To define bullying and bullying behavior
- To illustrate bullying behavior and its effect on the targeted individual
- To suggest practical steps to take to stop the bullying
- To show that bullies can be of either gender
- To emphasize the importance of reporting bullies so that the lives of the targeted individual *and* the bully can be improved

