

# Welcome Back, Devon

## Synopsis

The problem of bullying is addressed through real interviews with students who have been targeted by bullies, interspersed with a dramatized bullying incident. Devon, a small, shy middle school student suffers harassment from three classmates who threaten, hit and extort money from him. Nicole, a student videotaping a school project in the hallway, sees and records an episode of Devon's tormentors in action, but does not show it to anyone. When the bullies corner Devon in the washroom, he hits his head and falls into a coma. The bullies flee; Devon is discovered and taken to the hospital in an ambulance. Nicole and another witness come forward and the boys are arrested in front of their fellow students. When Devon is released from the hospital, the entire school welcomes him back with an assembly to help stop bullying. In addition to the story, comments from teachers, counselors and law enforcement personnel reassure students that they have both adult support and legal recourse against bullies.

## Questions to ask before viewing

1. Have you ever been laughed at, excluded, pushed around, etc.? Why? How did you feel?
2. Have you ever laughed at, excluded, pushed around, or otherwise mistreated somebody else? Why? How did you feel?
3. What do you think a person who is being bullied should do about it? What should a person do who sees someone being bullied?

## Questions to ask after viewing

1. What did the bullies do to Devon? (hit him, threatened him, threw a ball at him, took his lunch money, etc.) Why do you think the bullies chose to pick on Devon specifically? (Answers will vary, may include: He was younger, smaller, wore glasses, almost certainly wouldn't fight back, etc.)
2. What does Chief Deputy Burns say the state requires schools to do about bullying? (They must have a rule that targets bullies, turn them over to the police, etc.)

3. How did some of the students who were interviewed say they avoided bullies? (going to class by a different way, hiding in a classroom until the bullies had passed, etc.) How did Devon try to avoid the bullies? (by pretending to be sick)
4. One of the students said he was bullied by the "popular kids." Why would those who have the advantage of being popular want to bully others? (Answers will vary.)
5. What happened while Nicole was videotaping in the hallway? (She caught the boys harassing Devon on tape.)
6. The program mentioned fear of retaliation. What is retaliation and why are people afraid of it? (Retaliation means getting back at someone, hurting someone for hurting you. If someone gets back at you, you could suffer physically, emotionally, socially, etc.)
7. What did the bullies finally do to Devon? (caused him to hit his head, serious injury, etc.) How did they plan to get away with it? (by lying, saying that they were at PE.)

8. Did they get away with it? (no) Why not? (Nicole and another witness came forward and told what they knew.) What happened to the boys? (They were arrested and taken into custody in full view of their classmates.)
9. What happened when Devon came back to school? (There was an assembly in his honor.) What did some of the signs against bullying say? (Don't be silent about bullying. Speak up! Report bullying before it gets to you, too. Bullying can ruin lives. Treat others with respect.)
10. Some people think that hurting those smaller and weaker shows strength and superiority. Does it? (no) What does? (Answers will vary.)

### Annotation

The problem of bullying is addressed through real interviews with targeted students interspersed with dramatized scenes. Devon, a small, shy boy, suffers intimidation by three classmates. A witness who fears retaliation says nothing. But when Devon is seriously injured, the witness comes forward and the bullies are arrested with their classmates looking on. The entire school welcomes Devon back with an assembly to help stop bullying. Comments from law enforcement officials reassure students that they have legal recourse against bullies.

### Length

15 Minutes

### Subject Areas

Health and Guidance, Life Skills, Character Education

### Audience Level

Grades 5-8

### Catalog Number

2896-EN-VID

### Related titles in the AIMS collection

#2541-EN-VID McGruff's Bully Alert  
 #2663-EN-VID Teen Files, Flipped: Bullies, Loners, and Violence  
 #2497-EN-VID Teasing: It's No Joke  
 #2856-EN-VID Bullying: Not Just a Guy Thing  
 #2496-EN-VID Bully No More: Stopping the Abuse  
 #2543-EN-VID The Teen Files: Surviving High School



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## Welcome Back, Devon

### Objectives

- To assure bullied students that they are not alone
- To discuss sources and methods of help for students targeted by bullies
- To encourage those who witness bullying to come forward
- To inform viewers about the legal consequences of bullying

