

During the last incident in the scene at the canteen we see a boy watching what is happening. He is obviously friendly with the group, but does not actually join in with them in their attack on the girl. He is a bystander.

1 How does he react?

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2 How *could* he have reacted? List possible ways.

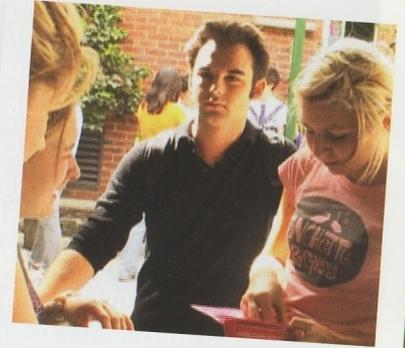
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3 How do you think he *should* have reacted? Why? Prepare a list of key points or reasons that a person might give to justify not doing anything in such a situation. Prepare also a list of reasons why a person might believe that they should have done something. Summarise them in this table.



Key reasons why a bystander might choose to do nothing around a bullying behaviour situation

Key reasons why a bystander might choose to do something around a bullying behaviour situation

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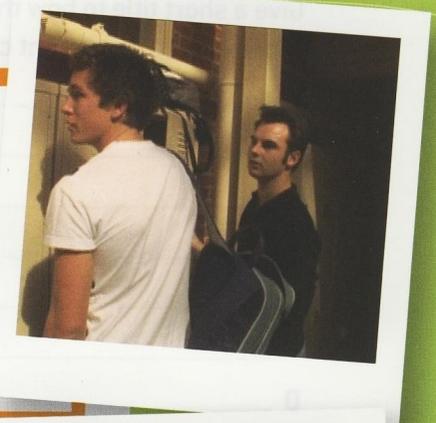
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You are starting to think about the role of the bystander in bullying behaviour. Let's keep exploring this further.

During the incidents at the lockers we see various examples of bystanding.

4 Discuss what happens in each of these cases with the bystanders.

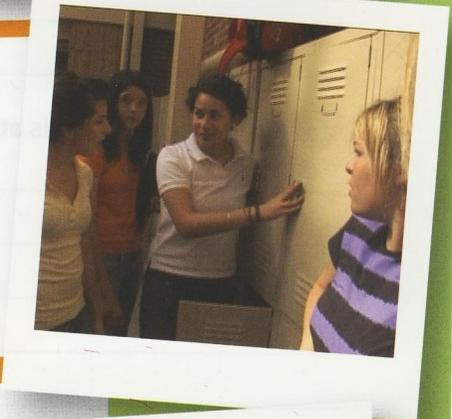
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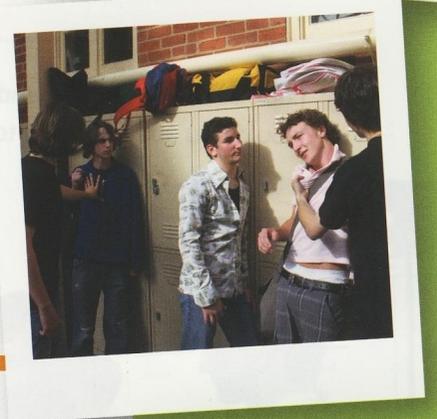
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5 There are several different responses by bystanders here. Give a short title to how the bystanders react in each case. (For example, you might call the last one 'active involvement'.)

A

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B

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C

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D

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6 When one of the bystanders is told not to 'dob', he responds: 'I won't dob, but I'll speak out when there's something wrong'. What is the difference between 'dobbing' and 'telling' in this situation.

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7 Do you agree with his attitude? Explain your reasons why.

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What determines how a bystander reacts to a bullying behaviour situation?

9 Look at the flow chart on the next page. It shows the main stages of decision-making about intervening in bullying behaviour. At each stage work out what factors might influence your decision. Stage 1 has been done to help you. *Note that the sorts of considerations listed in the example are not necessarily ones that you would agree with — but there are realistic ones that many people would take into account.* [List the factors that might be relevant. You can then check your ideas against our suggestions below.]

1

Does the person 'deserve' to be helped?

Possible considerations

- Has the target provoked it?
- Does this person normally bully?
- Is the target part of a group I don't like?
- Would you expect to be helped in this situation?

Some other aspects to consider

- Is it right to ever say that someone *deserves* to be bullied?
- Even if you do not like a person does that give others the right to bully them?

2

Is it my responsibility to help?

- Have they ever done anything to help you?
- It's up to the authorities.
- How will other people respond to you?
- Should you help someone in trouble?

- Do you only owe a responsibility to people who have helped you?
- If you think so, who will help you if you are in trouble and there are no friends around?

3

Do I have the ability to help?

- Am I strong enough?
- Have I the skills?
- Will it have an effect?

- Even if you do not have the strength or skill to help, is there another way of helping?
- Is there someone else whom you can go to?

4

Do the benefits of helping outweigh the cost?

- Will I be hurt?
- Will I be seen as a dobber?
- Will I make a powerful enemy?
- Can I afford the time?
- Will I be seen as a friend of a wimp?
- Will I be admired?
- Will I get gratitude?
- Will I have lived up to my values?

- Do you only have a duty to help if it will benefit you?
- If you are likely to be hurt, does this reduce your obligation to help?

1
Is the person looking uncomfortable or distressed?

Considerations:

- The target may deny wanting help
- Is the person really being hurt or just seeking attention?
- Would I be hurt in that situation?
- Are others expressing concern?

DECISION:

Yes

No

There is no problem.

2
Does the person 'deserve' to be helped?

Considerations:

DECISION:

Yes

No

Let it happen.

3
Is it my responsibility to help?

Considerations:

DECISION:

Yes

No

Move on.

4
Do I have the ability to help?

Considerations:

DECISION:

Yes

No

Leave it to somebody else.

5
Do the benefits of helping outweigh the cost?

Considerations:

DECISION:

Yes

No

It's not worth it.