

The Note: A Short Play on Bullying

<http://www.youtube.com/user/kidsbridge/videos>



Suggestions for Classroom Use (Grades 8 thru 12)

“The Note” was written to prompt discussion on the complex nature of bullying.

The action in the play is initiated by a cruel note which is passed from student to student. While the note provides narrative structure for the story, teachers may choose to use individual student's testimonies on their own. The play is punctuated periodically by a question or questions which appear on the screen. The following breakdown of the play includes additional questions to discuss or to be used as writing prompts.

Video 1 – The note is written (approx 4 min.)

Screen prompt: “*Worthless, useless, a waste of space?*”

“Who is the bully? Who is the victim? Why?”

The first line of this prompt is the content of the note. Students may make predictions about who the intended target might be and why.

Additional question:

“How would that comment make someone feel?”

Video 2 – Lin's Story (approx. 2 min.)

Questions:

“Do things like this happen in your school?”

“How would it feel to be Lin?”

“What would change if students were interested in Lin's real story?”

Video 3 – Bobby's Story (approx. 2 min.)

Screen prompt:

“When is it too late to stand up for yourself?”

“When is it too late to stand up for others?”

Additional question:

“What should Bobby do and why?”

Video 4 – Steve's Story (approx. 3 min.)

“Is it still bullying if it happens behind the victim's back?”

“Do religious beliefs justify bullying?”

Additional questions:

“How is Steve's situation different from the others?”

“Can Steve look to his father for help with the bullying he experiences?”

Video 5 – Shabina's Story (approx. 3 min.)

Questions:

“The principal was not helpful, should Shabina try something else?”

“What do you think of the way Shabina has chosen to deal with her problem?”

“What would you do if you knew something like this was happening in your school?”

Video 6 – Scotty's Story (approx. 6 min.)

Note: In this segment of the play, the teacher, Ms. Giles, behaves in an extremely unprofessional manner. Students and teachers should understand this as dramatic license used for the purpose of exposing certain thoughts and feelings. It does not represent our views of real teachers.

Questions:

“How do you feel about Scotty?”

“Can you imagine something that would change his behavior?”

“Is Scotty's behavior harmful to himself?”

Video 7 – Closing Segment (approx. 1.5 min.)