
from Twelve Lessons That Help to Unpack Understanding of the Bully Issue

Lesson Two. What's in the Word? *Bully*

This lesson invites students to work independently as well as to collaborate with a partner, in small groups, and as a whole class. Students work in groups to write a dictionary definition of the word *bully* using this context:

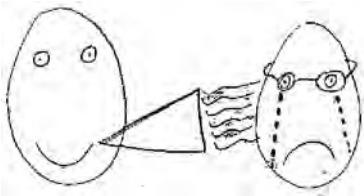
A new dictionary is about to be published, but the word *bully* has yet to be defined. As dictionary editors, you have been called upon for input.

In *The Bully, the Bullied and the Bystander*, Barbara Coloroso provides the following definition: "Bullying is a conscious, willful and deliberate hostile activity intended to harm, induce fear through the threat of further aggression, and create terror" (p. 13). You might have the students consider which words from the class definition are similar to or different from Coloroso's.

1. To begin, students work independently. Each student is given a file card on which to write a personal definition of the word *bully* as a noun and as a verb.
2. Students in pairs exchange definitions. Ask students to consider this question: "What word or phrases from your partner's definition do you think you might like to borrow to include in a definition of *bully*?" These suggestions can be recorded on a chart.
3. Pairs work together to synthesize definitions. Encourage students to include words from each partner's definition as well as add new words.
4. Partners are then matched up with others to share definitions. Groups of four collaborate on a definition. Challenge the students by insisting that the new definition be exactly 25 words in length. Once the definitions are completed, one member of each group shares the definition with the whole class.
5. Do a shared writing activity. Students offer suggestions to create a class definition of the word *bully*. Record suggestions as offered and revise and edit as the composing process unfolds.
6. Inform students that the new dictionary will be strictly visual so that all definitions must be represented without words. Prompt students to create an image or design to represent what a bully is.

Definitions

With thanks to Mrs. Rachael Stein's
Grade 6 class



A visual definition of bullying

A bully is someone who thinks
hurting someone is a fun thing
or a good thing. S.P.

Bully-when a person comes up
to you and starts to taunt you

S.V.

Bullying is something that
is full of non-joy, and it
could lead it to something
that could cost your life. T.L.

A Bully is cruel, mean, strong
and tough. J.B.

Lesson Three. What Is Bullying? A Questionnaire

To prompt a discussion about bullying, students complete a questionnaire independently (see the line master next page). They then share their answers in small groups, and as a class discuss responses, stories, and issues related to bullies and victims. The discussion is framed around the following questions:

- What is a bully?
- What do you think motivates someone to behave like a bully?
- How can you prepare yourself for the possibility of encountering a bully?

Bullying: A Questionnaire

Respond to each of the following statements by checking whether you agree, feel unsure, or disagree. You will later discuss your responses in class.

	Agree	Unsure	Disagree
1. Boys usually bully more than girls do.	☐	☐	☐
2. Most bullies have friends.	☐	☐	☐
3. I can tell someone is a bully from the person's looks.	☐	☐	☐
4. Bullying is just teasing.	☐	☐	☐
5. Bullies will go away if you ignore them.	☐	☐	☐
6. Telling someone you've been bullied usually makes things worse for you.	☐	☐	☐
7. Bullying mostly happens when no one else is around.	☐	☐	☐
8. Bullies generally think badly about themselves.	☐	☐	☐
9. Once a bully, always a bully.	☐	☐	☐
10. Spreading rumors is bullying.	☐	☐	☐
11. The best way to deal with a bully is to get even.	☐	☐	☐
12. Someone who witnesses a bullying incident and does not report it is a coward.	☐	☐	☐
13. Cyberbullies will go away if no one responds to their messages.	☐	☐	☐
14. Three out of four students have been involved in bullying incidents in school.	☐	☐	☐
15. It's important to ignore bullies.	☐	☐	☐

A word to describe a bully is _____

A word to describe a target is _____

