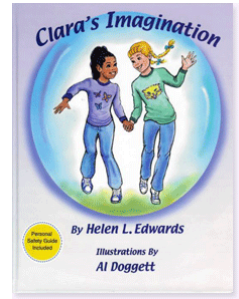


Lesson Plan 6

Cyber Bullying (Part II)

GRADE LEVELS: 6-12

BASED ON THE BOOK:



Clara's Imagination by *Helen L. Edwards*

Appendix J.1. Internet Safety For Children And Teens

FOCUS: The focus of this lesson is on Cyber bullying and how empathy can play a role in eliminating the tolerance of bullying in any form.

Focus continues to be on empathy in the form of redemption and its importance and how it relates in the lives of each of us.

PURPOSE:

- Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the various actions and behaviors that fall under the umbrella of cyber bullying/bullying.
- Students will take a critical look at how their behaviors and actions online can affect their online reputations.
- Students will discover that it is just as important to protect your online reputation as it is your Real World reputation.

OBJECTIVES:

- ❖ Students will recognize the extent to which cyber bullying/bullying can destroy lives.
- ❖ Students will learn that using the Internet is both a privilege and a responsibility. There is a code of conduct that should be adhered to while online that encompasses appropriate behavior socially, ethically, and legally.
- ❖ Students will come to understand that disregarding school policies as it relates to appropriate and responsible use of the Internet could result in disciplinary action through the school district and or legal system, depending on the violation, age of the student and state law.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Paper or journal
- Pen and pencil

TEACHER'S NOTE:

1. Say --
 - ❖ Another real life case of both face to face and cyber bullying occurred with 13-year old Ryan Halligan. He was relentlessly called “gay” and picked on. He had a crush on this girl named Ashley who pretended to like him. She gained his trust face to face and online, only to get personal information out of him. After Ashley had gathered sufficient information on Ryan online, she printed it, and passes it out at school.
 - ❖ Ryan was even physically pushed around at school. He was constantly tormented and threatened by IM’s he was receiving continuously. One of the messages read “We know where you live”.
 - ❖ Finally, a former rival that had become his friend betrayed him too and shared his private information that he wanted to remain private, but this person chose to tell it to anyone who would listen. Eventually, Ryan Halligan hung himself too, in his home.
 - ❖ Class, we see some similarities in Ryan’s case as in Megan’s. What are some of those similarities? .
2. Developmentally, they were going through puberty and were the same age. They were both betrayed by people they thought they could trust. They were both bullied and humiliated online. They were both made to feel that they were not good enough, that somehow they did not measure up.
3. Continue charting the class’s responses and the same group recording and reporting back out to the class process
4. Say --
 - ❖ Class, thank you for your insightful comparisons. Once a life has been taken we cannot bring that life back. It is a loss to the world and it has an impact on all of us when innocent blood is shed, even if it is at their own hands.
 - ❖ After Ryan’s death, Ashley, the girl who pretended to like Ryan and Ryan’s father went out into the community together to educate others about the tragic consequences of all types of bullying. Why do you think Ashley was willing to do this?
5. Allow time for group discussion and class feedback, chart responses on flipchart or overhead
6. Say --
 - ❖ Class, sometimes in life we do things that we regret and we cannot undo it once it has been done. The act we committed grieves us, so we seek to redeem ourselves.
 - ❖ Redemption is another form of empathy. Redemption is a way to give back in a positive way, going forward.
 - ❖ Turning an evil or unkind act into a learning experience for yourself and others; teaching a cautionary tale, so that others may avoid making the same mistake that you made, that could cost you your life, or someone else’s life.
 - ❖ Some people can learn from others mistakes and not repeat them. But there are still others that lack empathy. They do not learn from cautionary tales. They blame others and feel that whatever happened to someone else would not happen to them for the same types of behaviors. Unfortunately, some people will repeat the same mistakes.

Many personality types like that do have to learn things the hard way and they may even end up in jail.

7. **Say –**

- ❖ Unlike face to face bullying, you can't just walk away from the incident when it comes to cyber bullying. Cyber bullying is inescapable. There is a 24 hour audience and people can post things on the Internet at any time of the day or night. The audience can be massive, especially if something goes viral online.
- ❖ Cyber bullying does not just affect children and teens, young adults and adults are affected by this as well. Case in point, Rutgers University college student Tyler Clementi, jumped off the George Washington Bridge once his dorm roommate Dharum Ravi and Molly Wei secretly filmed him in private moments, using a web cam and then broadcast it online via an Internet chat program. Once Tyler discovered the betrayal he was humiliated, devastated, and he was beyond consoling. Tyler posted on his Facebook "Jumping off the George Washington Bridge, sorry." Three wonderful people who had a lot to offer our world but due to cyber bullying they will never be able to fulfill their dreams. Why should you care?

8. Allow for class discussion.

9. (Conclude) **Say –**

- ❖ Because we are our brothers keeper, part of being a human being is caring about each other and all of mankind. That includes caring about each other's well being.

10. **Say –**

- ❖ Not only should we care about cyber bullying from a humane aspect but we need to also consider it from a legal aspect. In Washington State and many other states because of the devastating impact cyber bullying has had on their own communities, laws are being enacted and enforced around this behavior.
- ❖ Every school district in our state (Washington, State) is required to teach about cyber bullying and its affect on our lives. Because if it can happen to you, it can happen to me, and we all have to take a stand against cyber bullying and bullying of any kind. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."
- ❖ That is why many schools and Districts are taking a stand that if cyber bullying takes place on District computers that is a violation of the District's computer usage policy for students and appropriate disciplinary action will be followed.
- ❖ In the cases where the activity might be considered criminal, law enforcement will be notified. If district computers are used for cyber bullying or any deemed unlawful act violating district policy or state law, disciplinary actions will follow.
- ❖ Sexting is another form of cyber bullying. An example of a real life sexting case is the case of teenage boy Phillip Alpert; he had just turned 18 years old. He broke up with his underage, 16 year old girlfriend and in the middle of the night he decided to send inappropriate pictures of her to dozens of his friends and her family. He had criminal charges filed against him, which resulted in him getting five years probation and now he is registered as a sex offender in Florida State.

- ❖ **Do not take an inappropriate picture and send it to anyone if you would not want your mother, teacher, or clergy to see it. If you receive an inappropriate photo, delete it immediately. You could be charged criminally if you have in your possession an inappropriate photo of someone who is underage, even if you never send them to others but they are stored in your cell phone, computer or some other digital device.**
 - ❖ **If convicted of possessing an inappropriate photo of someone underage, that charge could follow you well into your adult life, depending on your age at the time of the incident. If you keep, forward or send an inappropriate photo you now know the law and penalties differ in many states but there is a possibility that you could be facing criminal charges just for possessing inappropriate photos of underage people.**
11. This is pretty heavy information. Allow for students to process what they have just heard and answer any questions. They may need to recognize the seriousness of what they do with cell phones and online. They may be being monitored even if they do not notice it at school and their actions will not go without consequences.
 12. Students believe that what they do online is anonymous but every computer, cell phone; digital device has a tracker number and we all have IP addresses on our computers. If we are doing something illegal or unlawful, law enforcement will have no problem getting online agencies to track our activities.
 13. **Say –**
 - ❖ **Class, another point I want to make is you need to protect your online reputation.**
 - ❖ **Many colleges and universities now search online to see what they can find out about potential students seeking to attend their institutions. Due to the fact that they have students coming to study and live on their campuses from all over the United States and world, they want to make sure that their learning and living environment for those institutions are environments that are conducive for learning and safe for their students.**
 - ❖ **Many employers hire companies to do online background searches for anything that might come up on a potential employee.**
 - ❖ **You do not want something done in your youth to haunt you as you move forward in your educational and professional career.**
 - ❖ **Case in point substitute teacher Shawn Loftis, made some inappropriate movies in his early adult life. Later, he went and got a teaching credential and was hired as a teacher. But when the background check revealed he had made inappropriate movies as a young adult, he was fired. There was nothing he could do.**
 - ❖ **So what you do in Real Life and Online can affect your future opportunities. Protect your reputation online, just as you would in your Real Life. Being a cyber bully is not a reputation you want to have.**
 - ❖ **Class, I want you to think about and discuss in your groups how your online behavior can possibly affect your future college and career choices. Think about if you might ever want to run for a political office, work for the government, law enforcement, the CIA or FBI. Colleges, universities and employers are looking at potential recruits' character.**
 14. Allow for students to think and discuss in their groups how their online behavior might follow them into the future.

15. Summary:

- ❖ **Class, I was taught as a child that once you know better, you do better. Now that you have become aware of the pitfalls of cyber bullying and bullying in general, you have an obligation to yourself and others, to take a stand against bullying. Awareness and learning is not enough. It is about transferring that education into practice and letting your actions and behaviors reflect your stand against all types of bullying in your daily life.**