

How It Feels To Be a Bystander and What To Do

Lesson 5, Student Activity 6

Read the following scenario and envision yourself as a part of this group of friends:

Eating pizza around the computer on Saturday with her friends, Jan sees that Chris just logged on to IM. Someone suggests they bug Chris, who is always trying to join their group. Your friends provide suggestions and egg Jan on. Then you all join in, though you are beginning to feel a bit uncomfortable. They ask personal questions of Chris like who he/she likes best, Drew or Jamie? Chris shares a lot of personal information thinking it's a good way to be a part of the group. Your friends have fun stringing Chris along and decide to create an anonymous blog. There they post the IM transcript and share the URL with lots of kids at school – including Drew and Jamie. By Monday, they know half the school will have read it and Chris will be a total joke.

Assignment: What would you do if you were a part of this group of friends?

Write 1-2 paragraphs explaining how this situation would make you feel, how you think you would respond or participate and why.

Extra Credit Assignment: Pick one scenario below to answer. Write 1-2 paragraphs explaining your thoughts.

1. How will Chris feel? What could Chris do?
2. If you were one of the kids who got the URL, how would you feel knowing that you were never supposed to have seen this? What would you do when you saw Chris? Would you write anything on the blog?
3. Even though it didn't happen at school it doesn't matter, it's now all over school and everyone is reacting. What should the school do about it?
4. What would you do if you saw Chris very upset at school?
5. Do you think Jan and the group of friends feel sorry? Or do they like watching Chris' humiliation and start looking for new targets?
6. If you're targeted next what are you going to do? Are you as comfortable sharing information now or trusting others to be respectful of you?