

Who are you?

7-13

Objective:

To enable students to examine the different roles in bullying and to identify different ways to respond and behave. Bystanders responding appropriately (by discouraging, intervening in or reporting bullying) can be very effective in limiting the impacts of, and even preventing, bullying behaviour.

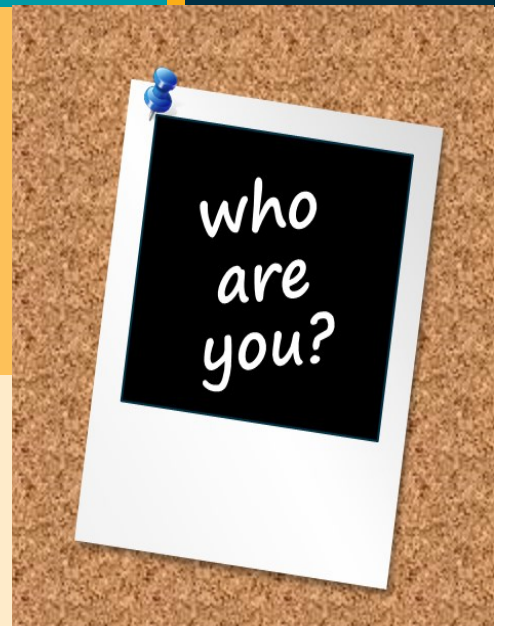
Materials:



Writing materials



Copies of scenario (see over page)



Method:

- Print out the scenario (*over page*) and ask your students to identify the different roles that the characters play.
- Ask the students to identify the following roles:
 - the initiator/s (bully/bullies)
 - the target
 - the bystanders.
- Ask them what each of the characters might be feeling.
- Ask the students to describe what could be done differently.

What is a bystander?

In any bullying situation there is usually:

- the person being bullied (**target**)
- the person/s bullying (**initiator/s**) and
- **'bystanders'** (other people who watch or are nearby at the time the bullying takes place).

Students may have been a bystander if they have:

- cheered the person bullying
- stood and watched in silence
- laughed or walked away from the situation
- forwarded an offensive image, post or text message to someone
- asked the person bullying to stop.

If bystanders are confident to take safe and effective action, there is a greater chance that the bullying will stop. An active bystander will use words and/or actions that can help someone who is being bullied.

Scenario:

It is lunch time and Charlotte is looking for her money to buy a drink. Sophie walks past and picks up Charlotte's bag; 'accidentally' emptying everything in the bag on to the floor. She sneers at Charlotte, saying "you'd better pick that up before someone breaks something", and then stands on Charlotte's phone, saying "oops – sorry didn't see that there".

Maia notices that Charlotte is upset and tries to help her pick up her things. Ruby, who is standing next to Sophie, says to Maia "Huh! Feeling sorry for the teacher's pet are you? Better mind your manners or you might be sorry about that." Maia gets up and walks away.

A group of Charlotte's and Sophie's classmates are watching what happens, but decide not to step in. Mrs Pritchard comes over and asks what is going on. Sophie and Ruby make a show of helping Charlotte pick up her things and asking if she is alright. Charlotte tells Mrs Pritchard that everything is OK.