

STAND BY OR STAND UP ?



SUGGESTED GRADES

Intermediate and Middle School

INTERNET SAFETY

ISSUES

Cell phones
Cyberbullying
Social networking

INSTRUCTIONS

Have students play the interactive comic - *Stand By or Stand Up?* - on NSTeens.org. Then, use this discussion guide to help them better understand the comic's lesson.

RELATED RESOURCES

- » Video - "Terrible tEXt"
- » Video - "Cyberbullying"
- » Intermediate Pledge

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you think Katie felt when her picture was being passed around?

Katie probably felt sad, embarrassed and alone. She might not have wanted to come to school because her classmates were the ones bullying her. Katie might have also felt afraid to tell an adult, like her parents or a teacher, because she thought no one could help.

2. Why do you think so many people joined in the cyberbullying?

A message or picture being passed around is like a snowball – it starts out small, but it quickly gets bigger and bigger. Once Katie's picture started being passed around, it was hard to stop. Some people who joined in probably thought they were just being funny by passing the picture around. Some people may have felt pressured to join in because their friends were doing it. Some may have not liked Katie and wanted to be mean to her.

3. There are several times during the comic when you have to make a choice. Which path did you choose and why?

First choice: Send the picture to John or don't send it?

Second choice: Forward the picture or delete it?

Third choice: "Like" the page or report it?

Fourth choice: Help Katie pick up her books or walk away?

Fifth choice: Lie to the teacher or tell the truth?

Encourage students to imagine what would have happened if they chose differently. You may even want them to play the comic again to make different choices.

4. What else could you have done to help Katie?

You could have shown Katie that you support her by being her friend, sending her a nice message, walking with her in the hallway, or sitting with her at lunch. You could have told the cyberbullies to stop; John is your friend and may have listened to you. You could have also told an adult about it, like your parent or a teacher. An adult could have talked to the cyberbullies and gotten them to stop.

5. Why should you speak up and not stand by when you see someone being cyberbullied?

If you see someone being cyberbullied and ignore it, you are being a bystander. Bystanders are sometimes afraid to say something because they think they will be cyberbullied, too. They might also think that adults can't help or that they'll be seen as a tattletale. But bystanders actually have a lot of power. If no one ever steps in to tell cyberbullies that what they are doing is wrong, then they will just keep cyberbullying. If you stand up to them, you can help someone else from being hurt.

Watch videos and play games at
NSTeens.org

NetSmartz Workshop

A program of the

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