



Herb and Lois Walker's
SCRIPTS FOR SCHOOLS

HOW TO BEAT THE BULLY

An Anti-Bullying Script by
Lee Karvonen

Formatted for Readers Theater
by Lois Walker

www.scriptsforschools.com

These are the “anti-bullying” strategies used in the creation of this Readers Theater script:

Stay in a group. Kids who bully like to pick on kids who are by themselves a lot—it's easier and they're more likely to get away with their bad behavior. If you spend more time with other kids, you may not be an easy "target" and you'll have others around to help you if you get into a difficult situation!

Always tell an adult. It's hard to talk about serious things with adults sometimes, but they can help put a stop to bullying. Tell an adult that you trust and can talk to - your parents, your teacher, your school counselor, your coach, your neighbor. If you've told a grown-up before and they haven't done anything about it, tell someone else. And if you're afraid to tell an adult that you have been bullied, get another person - like a friend or a sister or brother - to go with you. Having someone else there to support you can make it a lot less scary. Tell the adults exactly what has happened - who did the bullying, where and when it happened, how long it's been happening to you, and how it's making you feel. If you talk with an adult at your school, ask them what they will do to help stop the bullying. It is their job to help keep you safe. Most adults really care about bullying and will do everything they can to help you.

If it feels safe, try to stand up to the person who is bullying you. If the person who is bullying you thinks you won't do anything about it, they are more likely to keep picking on you. This doesn't mean you should fight back or bully them back. Instead, tell the person bullying you that you don't like it and that they should stop! Keep it simple. You might just say, "Cut it out, Miranda!", and then walk away. If possible, try to talk to them in a calm voice. Kids who bully often like to see that they can make you upset. If you're afraid to talk to the person who is bullying you by yourself, then you might want to ask someone else to be there with you. Kids who bully are more likely to listen, and less likely to bully you, when you're with someone and not alone. If you're not comfortable standing up to someone who has bullied you, that's definitely OK! Just walk away. But be sure to tell an adult.

More information can be found online at:

<http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/kids/are-you-being-bullied.aspx>

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CHARACTERS

1. THE BULLY
2. THE VICTIM
3. THE VICTIM'S FRIEND
4. BYSTANDER 1
5. BYSTANDER 2
6. MOTHER

AS MANY ANNOUNCER/SIGN-HOLDERS AS DESIRED

SCENES

1. OUTSIDE THE SCHOOLYARD
2. NEXT DAY IN THE SCHOOLYARD
3. THE VICTIM'S HOME
4. ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL THE NEXT DAY
5. LATER, IN THE SCHOOLYARD

MOTIVATION

- * THE BULLY WANTS TO FEEL SUPERIOR TO SOMEONE.
- * THE BULLY WANTS THINGS HIS/HER WAY.

SIGNS: To perform this Readers Theater script, create and hang signs around each character's neck telling the audience the name of that character. (Example: VICTIM, BULLY, FRIEND, BYSTANDER, MOTHER, etc.)

Since most RT productions do not involve much stage movement, either ask some of the characters who have smaller parts or appoint additional students to hold up large signs at the proper moments during the play. The signs are meant to inform the audience where the action is taking place and which stage movements are happening at the time. (Examples: BULLY HITS VICTIM IN FACE, VICTIM RUNS AWAY, SCENE 1 - OUTSDIE THE SCHOOLYARD, SCENE 2 – NEXT DAY IN THE SCHOOLYARD, etc.)

SET-UP OF READING AREA: Place BULLY and VICTIM in center of reading/performance area. Arrange other readers to the left and right of these readers.

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ENTRANCE: VICTIM, BULLY, BYSTANDERS 1&2 enter the performance area and take their positions. They either carry their scripts (and hold them throughout the reading) or the scripts may be preset on music stands placed directly in front of each reader's position. The readers stand BTA (with their backs facing the audience).

TO BEGIN: When it is time to begin a sign that says "HOW TO BEAT THE BULLY" is held up and shown to the audience. Another sign is held up that says "SCENE 1 - OUTSIDE THE SCHOOLYARD". (These sign-holders may also **announce** the words on their signs to emphasize the title, action, setting, if desired). As the sign-holders exit, VICTIM turns to face the audience and reads the first line below. BULLY immediately turns to face the audience and delivers the second line – and the play has begun.

SCENE ONE

Scene One involves the bully, victim, and 2 bystanders who do nothing until the bully engages them in his victorious laughter at the scene's end. The bully and the bystanders are blocking the path to the victim's home.

(Sign-Holders enter).

SIGN: HOW TO BEAT THE BULLY

SIGN: SCENE 1 - OUTSIDE THE SCHOOLYARD.

(As the Sign-Holders exit, VICTIM turns to face the audience and reads the first line below. BULLY immediately turns to face the audience and delivers the second line).

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VICTIM: I JUST WANT TO GO HOME.

BULLY: WELL, I DON'T WANT YOU TO GO HOME!

(Bystanders 1 and 2 turn to face the audience. They look scared).

VICTIM: WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

BULLY: YOU! YOU'RE THE PROBLEM!

VICTIM: WHAT DID I DO?

BULLY: YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!

VICTIM: THEN WHAT'S WRONG?

BULLY: YOU! YOU ARE WHAT'S WRONG!

VICTIM: WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

BULLY: I MEAN I DON'T LIKE YOU! I DON'T LIKE THE WAY YOU
LOOK! I DON'T LIKE THE WAY YOU ACT! I JUST DON'T
LIKE YOU!

VICTIM: WELL, WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO ABOUT THAT?

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BULLY: SUFFER!

VICTIM: ARE YOU THREATENING ME?

BULLY: I'M DOING MORE THAN THAT! I'M GOING TO HURT YOU! *(Mimes hitting VICTIM in the face).*

(Sign-Holders quickly enter).

SIGN: OUCH!

SIGN: BULLY HITS VICTIM IN THE FACE!

(Sign-Holders quickly exit).

VICTIM: OW! OW! THAT HURTS! *(VICTIM reacts by putting his hand to his face).*

BULLY: ALREADY I LIKE YOUR FACE BETTER! AND IF YOU DON'T WANT MORE OF THAT, YOU BETTER KEEP YOUR FACE AWAY FROM MINE FROM NOW ON! GET IT?!?! *(Waits for VICTIM to respond)* ... I SAID, GET IT?!?!

VICTIM: I GET IT.

BULLY: GOOD! NOW GET LOST! ... I SAID GET LOST RIGHT NOW OR I'LL REALLY GIVE IT TO YOU!!!

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VICTIM: I'M GOING. (*BULLY raises his fist again*). I'M GOING NOW!

(*VICTIM turns back to audience and stands quietly*).

(*Sign-Holder quickly enters and exits*).

SIGN: VICTIM RUNS AWAY!

BULLY: LITTLE JERK! DID YOU SEE HOW I MADE HIM RUN?

(*BULLY laughs and BYSTANDERS 1 and 2 laugh nervously with BULLY*).

BULLY: COME ON GUYS! WE'RE OUT OF HERE!

(*All readers turn BTA and stand quietly while the next scene is announced. As this happens, FRIEND enters the reading area and takes position, BTA*).

SCENE TWO

Scene Two involves the victim, his friend, and the two bystanders in the schoolyard, away from the place the bully usually hangs out. The bystanders join the first two part way through the scene. To start the scene, VICTIM turns to face audience and reads the first line in Scene 2. FRIEND turns to face the audience and responds. The reading continues...

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(Sign-Holders enter).

SIGN: HOW TO BEAT THE BULLY

SIGN: SCENE 2 – NEXT DAY IN THE SCHOOLYARD.

(As Sign-Holders exit, VICTIM turns to face audience and reads).

VICTIM: WHAT DID I EVER DO TO THAT GUY? HE ATTACKED
ME FOR NO REASON AT ALL!

FRIEND: I KNOW THAT. BUT YOU KNOW WHAT HE'S LIKE. HE
DOES THAT SORT OF THING FOR FUN.

VICTIM: FUN? FUN FOR WHO? HE'S A COMPLETE JERK!

FRIEND: YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT WHO'S GOING TO TELL HIM?

VICTIM: SOMEDAY! SOMEDAY SOMEBODY'S GOING TO TELL
HIM, BUT GOOD!

FRIEND: YEAH? AND IS THIS SOMEBODY ANYBODY WE KNOW?

VICTIM: I WISH! HE IS SO MEAN! AND WHY? WHAT DOES HE
GET OUT OF IT? IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S GOT A LOT OF
FRIENDS?

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FRIEND: TRUE. BUT HE DOES HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE AFRAID OF HIM.

VICTIM: ISN'T THAT GREAT!

(BYSTANDERS 1 and 2 turn to face the audience).

BYSTANDER 1: HI, GUYS. HOW ARE YOU?

VICTIM: OH, WE'RE WONDERFUL!

BYSTANDER 2: THAT WAS PRETTY ROUGH YESTERDAY. DID HE HURT YOU?

VICTIM: AS IF YOU CARE! I HEARD YOU LAUGHING!

BYSTANDER 2: WHAT CHOICE DID WE HAVE? HE'D HAVE HIT US IF WE DIDN'T LAUGH.

FRIEND: YOU COULD HAVE WALKED AWAY IF YOU DIDN'T LIKE WHAT HE WAS DOING.

BYSTANDER 1: LOOK, WE HAVE TO GO TO THIS SCHOOL TOO. HE'D HAVE FOUND US TODAY AND PICKED ON US TOO.

ALL OTHERS: YEAH. THAT'S RIGHT.

VICTIM: TRUE. WELL, SEE YOU LATER.

OTHERS: YEAH. SEE YOU.

(All readers turn BTA and stand quietly. As this happens, MOTHER enters the reading area and takes position, BTA).

SCENE THREE

Scene Three involves the victim and his mother, later that same day, at the victim's home.

(Sign-Holders enter).

SIGN: HOW TO BEAT THE BULLY

SIGN: SCENE 3 – AT THE VICTIM'S HOME.

(As the sign-holders exit, VICTIM turns to face the audience and reads the first line below. MOTHER immediately turns to face the audience and delivers the second line).

VICTIM: MOM! I'M HOME!

MOTHER: HOW WAS SCHOOL TODAY?

VICTIM: GREAT! I HAD NOTHING BUT FUN.

MOTHER: THAT WAS VERY SARCASTIC. CARE TO SHARE?

VICTIM: NOT REALLY.

MOTHER: WILL THAT SOLVE ANYTHING?

VICTIM: NO, BUT IT'S SAFER THAT WAY.

MOTHER: WHY IS THAT?

VICTIM: IF I JUST SAY NOTHING, THEN NOTHING MUCH MORE
WILL HAPPEN TO ME.

MOTHER: WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

VICTIM: OH, THIS GUY WHO DOESN'T LIKE ME KINDA BULLIES
ME A BIT.

MOTHER: BULLIES YOU? HOW?

VICTIM: OH, HE CALLS ME NAMES, AND WON'T LET ME WALK
WHERE I WANT TO, AND SORT OF THREATENS TO
HURT ME, OR SOMETIMES ACTUALLY HURTS ME.

MOTHER: THAT'S PRETTY SERIOUS. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT
THIS?