Different Perspectives

A bystander is anyone who witnesses bullying or hears about bullying. There are different roles bystanders can take.

In this activity the three roles are:

1. Seeing the bullying and the victim is your close friend.
2. Seeing the bullying and the victim is just someone you know.
3. You hear about the bullying from others.

**GOAL:** This activity will help students understand the different perspectives bystanders have and how to react to each one.

Below are three different scenarios. Each scenario is seen from the three different bystander perspectives. As you read through each scenario, answer the following questions.

1. What **role** or perspective is this?
2. How do you **think** the victim is feeling?
3. What is something you could do that would **reinforce** the bully?
4. What are three things you could do to **help** the victim?

**Scenario 1**

1. You are in a group of friends and the group has decided that they are going to ignore Hayden for the rest of the day. No one is supposed to talk to him and if he comes near your group, everyone is supposed to move away from him. You are also supposed to pretend to whisper about him when he is around.

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1. You are standing in the hallway and you see Hayden being excluded by his friends. They are ignoring him and moving away when he comes near them. His friends are also whispering and looking at Hayden.

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1. You are sitting in class and Hayden walks in. He is hugging his books close to his chest and crying. You have heard that his friends have been ignoring him today and saying some pretty mean things about him.

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**Scenario 2**

1. You are sitting at lunch with some friends and they start discussing some juicy gossip about Chris, a good friend of yours. They ask you if you know anything about him. You know a lot about him and can share it with the group, which means you will probably be the favorite in the group that day.

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1. You are standing in the lunch line with a good friend of yours. He starts telling you some gossip he heard about Chris, a boy you know.

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1. It is the end of lunch and you have just heard the gossip about Chris. You can tell the gossip has pretty much spread around the entire lunch room. Everyone is looking at Chris as he throws away his lunch and leaves with his head down.

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**Scenario 3**

1. You and two of your friends are outside school in the morning talking. Matthew, another friend of yours walks up and the boys begin to give him the silent treatment. Matthew asks if you all are mad at him. Your friends tell him they are tired of him trying to be better than everyone else. They then threaten to reveal his crush to the entire school over Facebook.

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1. You are standing outside of the school waiting for the doors to open. You overhear one of Matthew’s friends telling him how he is tired of him trying to be better than everyone. He then threatens to tell everyone about a crush Matthew has.

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1. You are waiting for the door to open to your first class. You see Matthew standing by himself instead of with his group of friends. You know the boys he is friends with and you are pretty sure they have done something mean to him.

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