Making Assumptions

Making an assumption is coming to a conclusion about something without knowing all of the facts. People make assumptions on a daily basis to fill in the blanks and minimize asking questions. But a lot of times our assumptions can cause us to make judgments about people that are wrong. These judgments can happen within 30 seconds of meeting someone.

**How does this relate to bullying?** One of the reasons bystanders do not intervene are the assumptions they have made about the victim. These assumptions can lead bystanders to believe that the victim deserves to be bullied.

**GOAL:** Learn the different assumptions you make about people and why they might be bullied.

Read the 5 descriptions of different male students. As you read through each of these, try to form a picture in your head of each student by thinking about what the person looks like, how they act, or what they like to do. Then fill in each of the boxes below about the person.

|  | **What are 3 assumptions you made about the person?** | **Why might they be bullied?** | **Do they deserve to be bullied? Give 3 reasons why or why not.** |
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| Alan is short in height and skinny. He wears glasses and is quiet around other students. |  |  |  |
| Marshall is tall and has black hair. He likes to dress in all black clothing. He also has several piercings. |  |  |  |

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|  | **What are 3 assumptions you made about this person?** | **Why might they be bullied?** | **Do they deserve to be bullied? Give 3 reasons why or why not.**  |
| Alex has short blonde hair that is sometimes messy. He is overweight and keeps to himself most of the time. He also struggles in school and with his grades.  |  |  |  |
| Kenneth always tries to dress fashionable and is up on trends. He does well in school and is on the varsity football team.  |  |  |  |