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Stand Up with a Story: Anti- Bullying Strategies

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GRADES 3–5

TYPE
NARRATIVE
SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL
LEARNING

COMMITMENT
1 SESSION: 1 HOUR

PRESENTED BY
CARTOON NETWORK

This lesson was developed and made possible as part of the Inclusion Storytelling Project, a collaboration between 826LA, 826 National, and Cartoon Network’s award-winning “Stop Bullying: Speak Up” campaign. The lesson is centered on writing as a vehicle for Social-Emotional Learning and is designed to encourage youth to share their individual stories about kindness and empathy in an effort to stop bullying before it starts.

SESSION:

YOU WILL NEED

- Bullying Brainstorm – Handout
- Stop Bullying – Handout
- Anti-Bullying Story Draft – Handout
- Stand Up with a Story: Anti-Bullying Strategies — Slideshow
- Slips of paper with character names and descriptions (enough for 3 characters per group)
- Slips of paper with descriptions of setting (1 per group)

STEP 1 (10 MINUTES)

Introduction

Ask students to think about their favorite stories, comics, TV shows, or movies with a character who is a bully. Who stands up to this bully, and how?

Explain that students are going to be writing stories in small groups that features a character or a group of characters who stands up to a bully.

First, you'll need to present the different anti-bullying strategies to students, which all can be found in the downloadable handout. Students can either go through these strategies as a whole group or in small groups. Working in small groups, students will choose at least one of the strategies to expand upon in their story.

STEP 2 (15 MINUTES)

Let's brainstorm!

Students will work through the "Bullying Brainstorm" handout as a group. Each group will choose three characters and a setting from a box or bag and assign those characters roles in the story (bully, victim, bystander). Then, they brainstorm a beginning (what type of bullying occurs?), a middle (what strategy from "Stop Bullying" handout?), and end (what happens after someone stands up to the bully?).

Each group only needs to complete one worksheet. Ask students to pick one person in their group to be the Writer. This person will be in charge of writing down everything group members say in this step! Remind the Writer that it's important to record all ideas from their group, even if they don't use those ideas later. They do not need to write in complete sentences for this step!

STEP 3 (45 MINUTES)

Let's draft!

Once students have completed the brainstorm worksheet, share the following prompt:

With your group, write a story about a group or a person who stands up to a bully. Include at least one of the strategies from the "Stop Bullying" handout.

Be sure to include:

- At least one of the strategies from the "So how can we stop it?" section of the Stop Bullying handout
- A beginning (when the bullying happens)
- A middle (when someone stands up to the bully)
- An end (what happens after?)

Depending on the age of your students and group size, it may be helpful to delegate additional roles for this step, such as leader, writer(s), spokesperson, and an editor or checker.

If students feel stuck, here are some ideas for how students might start their stories.

- (Character name) didn't understand why (bully's name) was always picking on them.
- It was the last straw! (Character name) wasn't going to let (bully's name) be a bully anymore.
- It all started when...

STEP 4 (10-15 MINUTES)

Close out

If time allows, students should present their short stories as skits and act them out. Otherwise, have each group share out what happened in their story with the class.