

How To Be An Upstander

A group of kids in sixth grade like to ride skateboards and some are pretty good at it. But Luke is just a beginner. One day while practicing at home Luke sets up his phone to record himself trying a new trick. Unfortunately everything goes wrong and he crashes, looking pretty ridiculous.

Luke sends this video to Jerry. Without asking Luke's permission, Jerry posts the video on a social networking site. Soon a bunch of kids from school, and even some strangers, see the video and post mean comments like "FAIL!" "Lame Luke," "Loser," and more. When Luke goes to school the next day, some kids point and laugh at him. Luke is hurt and embarrassed.

Can you complete this story?

Here is the same story as a cartoon strip (created by Dirk Tiede, Cyber Civics Teacher at Waldorf School at Moraine Farm):



Your Task:

In your book, write a paragraph or draw a comic strip to tell/show what happens next. Be sure your story or comic strip includes people who play *all* of these roles:

The target

The bully or bullies

The bystanders

An upstander (or upstanders)

Your story or comic strip must explain what an *upstander* does in this situation. As you complete the story, think about these questions:

-What could the upstander say or do to show support for the target?

-What could the upstander say to others who viewed the video and left cruel comments?

-How could the upstander involve a trusted adult?



TERMS TO KNOW

TARGET:

Someone being bullied.

BULLY:

Someone doing the bullying.

BYSTANDER:

Someone who observes bullying (online or off) but ignores it.

UPSTANDER:

Someone not involved with the incident, but who steps in to help anyway.

Someone who empathizes with the target, letting them know they care.

EMPATHIZE:

To imagine the feeling that someone else is experiencing.