

THE CYBER BULLY

Teacher's Notes

Terms used in the play. Useful terms to know when discussing cyber bullying

Anonymizer

An intermediary which hides or disguises the IP address associated with the internet user. Generally, this allows a person to engage in various internet activities without leaving a digital footprint.

Bash Board

An online bulletin board on which individuals can post anything they want. Generally, posts are malicious and hateful statements directed against another person.

Blog

Interactive web journal or diary, the contents of which are posted on line and then viewable by some or all individuals. The act of updating a blog is called blogging. A person who keeps a blog is called a blogger.

Cyber-bullycide

Suicide stemming directly or indirectly from cyber-bullying victimization.

Cyber –bullying

Willful or repeated harm inflicted through the medium of electronic text. Generally the offender has perceived or actual power over the victim(s).

Cyberspace

A term used to describe the electronic universe created by computer networks in which individuals interact.

Cyberstalking

Harassment that includes threats of harm or is highly intimidating and intruding upon one's personal privacy.

Digital footprint

Evidence of a person's use of the internet. This includes anything that can be linked to his or her existence, presence or identity.

Flaming

Online fight using electronic messages with angry and vulgar language.

Denigration

"Dissing" someone on line. Sending or posting cruel gossip or rumours about a person to damage his or her reputation or friendships.

Exclusion

Intentionally excluding someone from an online group. Like a "buddy list" or a game.

Trolling

Intentionally posting provocative messages about sensitive subjects to create conflict, upset people, and bait them into "Flaming" or fighting.

Impersonation

Breaking into someone's account, posing as that person and sending messages to make the person look bad, get that person in trouble or danger, or damage that person's reputation or friendships.

Outing and trickery

Sharing someone's secrets or embarrassing information online. Tricking someone into revealing secrets or embarrassing information, which is then shared.

Keyboard Warrior

A person that is more confident typing on line than talking with people face to face.

Netiquette.

A play on the word etiquette. To use social networking sites in a responsible and positive way.

<h3>Questions about the play</h3>
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1. Why do you think Edward spends so much time alone in his room?
2. Edward spends a lot of time on social networking sites. What are social networking sites? What is the intended use of social networking sites?
3. Edward also spends a lot of time blogging. What is blogging? Give some reasons that people use blogging to communicate.
4. While Edward is blogging some kids are posting rude sentences about him on his site. Edward is very frustrated as he wants to use his blog to share his feelings about loneliness. Give some reasons why other kids would post nasty words on Edwards's blog site? What is your opinion about people who do this?
5. Edward's parents have no idea what Zoe and Edward are doing in their spare time in Edward's room. Edward and Zoe get into a lot of trouble with the misuse of social networking sites. What could Edward's parents have done to prevent this?
6. What sort of cyber security do you have at school and at your home?
7. Why does Zoe stay at Edward's house?
8. When Edward tells Zoe that he thinks that Jane is the person who has been posting the nasty messages on his blog how does Zoe react?
9. What reasons do you think Zoe has to bully Jane on social networking sites?

10. Do you think that the reasons are good enough to hurt another student at school?
11. What technologies does Zoe use to bully Jane?
12. Zoe says that she's never been able to bully Jane at school because she has too many friends. How does the use of technologies assist Zoe to bypass Jane's friends?
13. Zoe says that she feels that she has all the power when she's sending anonymous text messages and post on sites. What does she mean by this? How does Zoe act when she thinks that she'll never be caught?
14. At the end of the play Zoe and Edward say Face to Face not Cyber Space. Do you feel it's easier to be mean or rude if you can't see the person's face?
15. How would it make you feel to receive anonymous text messages that were nasty? If it did happen to you what would you do about it?
16. Edward is surprised when all the nasty texts and electronic messages were traced back to himself and Zoe. He says it was all traceable and that there is a digital foot print. What do you think of this statement?
17. When Edward records his blog he tells everyone about his loneliness and shows everything in his room. What do you think about this? Who could be listening to Edwards's blogs?
18. Zoe takes on a different identity when she signs up for her face book account. Why do you think Zoe does this?
19. Zoe says she feels sick after she sees Jane's mother crying at school. Why does she feel this way?
20. During the song "WAR" Edward and Zoe use the cyber bullying terms below. What do these terms mean?

Texting

Social network

Happy slapping

Cyber stalking

Denigration

Trolling

Flaming

Bash boarding

Anonymiser

Binge texting

Cyber bullycide.

21. Edward is suspicious of Jane because she stares at him during school. When he talks to Jane she says that she was looking at him because she liked him. Why do you think Edward jumps to the conclusion that Jane doesn't like him?
22. When Jane and Edward meet face to face Jane tells him what effect the cyber bullying has had on her. What are these effects?
23. Zoe says that her mother has told her that the cyber bullying may affect her job prospects as an adult. Why would Zoe's cyber bullying affect her future?
24. Zoe says that she has learned the meaning of empathy. What does empathy mean and how has understanding empathy helped Zoe?
25. Why do you think that Edward went along with cyber bullying Jane?
26. What does Edward think about himself in relation to the other students at school?
27. When Edward does his blog he worries about who is listening. Why is he worried about that and why does he keep saying "I know who you are"?
28. What sort of consequences do you think Zoe and Edward will face for their actions?

29. Zoe and Edward treat the other students in their class very badly. How do you feel about the use social networking sites after viewing the play?

Drama Improvisations

Exercise 1 Play back Theatre

Ask the students if they have ever been bullied and would they be willing to tell the story to the class. After a student has told the story let small groups of students act out the story with simple props and costumes. Ask the student how they feel after seeing the story acted out. Ask them if it was accurate and if not what was different. If it's appropriate ask the group to act out the story again with the student's changes.

This is based on play back theatre.

The idea is to see something that has happened in your life acted back to you. It can be a very empowering experience or just help to shed light on people's different perspectives on what actually happened.

Exercise 2 Improvising Bullying

Place a student in the middle of a circle of other students. Allow the students to act out teasing the student while they are blind folded. Take the blind off and allow the students to act out teasing the student while making eye contact. Ask the student if it was different doing it blind folded from doing it face to face.

Be careful that the students are not really teasing and are acting. They don't have to be really mean for this to work.

This improvisation offers the students insight into the differences between feeling anonymous and being seen.

Exercise 3 Improvising Bullying Step 2

Select two students to be blind folded and then act out a bullying scene together. (For example that one student is always taking lunch money from another) Do

the scene again and try it face to face. Examine how the scene changes. Ask the students what they think about being invisible or being able to see during an acting scene.

Drama Trust Exercises

Exercise 1

Break the class into groups of about six students. Ask all the students to stand in a tight circle with one student inside. The student inside can fall and then be caught by the students in the circle. The student in the middle is then pushed gently from one student to the other around the circle keeping their feet central and their body straight but having no control over which direction they are pushed in.

Exercise 2

The students can break up into pairs. One student can act out fainting as the other catches them from a close distance. Both students can have a turn at fainting and catching.

Exercise 3

The students can be broken up into pairs. One student can wear a blindfold and the other student can lead them from one end of the room to the other. The students can take turns and both have a go at leading and being lead blind folded.

These exercises can be interpreted appropriately according to class size and the maturity of the students.

Questions about Bullying

1. What is bullying?
2. Name some different ways in which people bully.
3. Why do you think people bully?

4. How does being bullied make you feel? If you haven't been bullied how do you think it would make you feel?
5. What sort of suggestions can you make to stop bullying at your school?
6. How do you think bullying affects the school or home?
7. If people know that someone is being bullied and do nothing about it does it make them a bully as well? What do you think?
8. How is cyber bullying different from face to face bullying?
9. If you were being bullied by text messages or nasty posts on your computer what could you do to have it stopped. Discuss with your teacher.
10. Name some strategies of dealing with bullying at school or at home. If you need help with this question discuss it with your teacher or class mates.

Have fun with these questions and exercises.

For more information about the performance or the teacher's notes please contact the playwright Trisha Starrs.

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The End