

Student Worksheet

Task 2 – Multi-text Reading:
Bullying

A. Read the four texts and decide which text each question refers to – A, B, C or D.

Which text

1. shows how negative traits can become positive? **Text:**
2. mentions further steps to end the problem discussed? **Text:**
3. refers to a more modern variant of the problem mentioned? **Text:**
4. gives reasons and consequences of bullying? **Text:**
5. gives advice on how to deal with aggression? **Text:**

B. Read the text again. Tick (✓) the five statements from 1-8 below that are true according to the information given in the four texts.

Statements	✓?
1. Cyberbullying is a modern form of bullying.	
2. A number of celebrities are hardened by their negative experience.	
3. Bullying can have a negative influence on someone's performance at school.	
4. Christian Bale used to react violently to being bullied.	
5. After having lost weight, Tyra Banks became successful.	
6. Some comedic actors think they learned how to be funny thanks to the problems they had with bullies.	
7. Selena Gomez was bullied when she was a kid.	
8. Lady Gaga set up a charity with her colleague Brittany Snow to end bullying.	

C. Complete the summary notes below with suitable words or phrases from the texts.**Bullying: Summary Notes**

- Celebrities are often the victim of cyberbullying which means constant (1) through social media
- Some deal well with this perhaps because of being bullied as a child
- Bullying can have an impact on schoolwork and (2), often psychological problems in later life
- T. Banks and M. Phelps were bullied because of their appearance but ironically later thanked their (3)..... to it
- Ch. Bale and Ch. Rock didn't use (4) in response to their bullies
- S. Gomez and Rihanna became stronger because of the experience
- Lady Gaga wants to give hope to her fans and B. Snow started a (5) to end bullying

Reading Text**Bullying**

A. Bullying is of all times, but a more recent phenomenon is cyberbullying in which the bully uses email, text messages, twitter and other social media or online forums to hurt the victim. It is no surprise that celebrities who are constantly in the public eye are cyberbullied relentlessly. Celebrities are criticized literally for every move they make. A lot of the comments are about looks. Celebrities need to have a thick skin to deal with this constant stream of criticism. Some seem to do fine though. This may have to do with past experiences as surprisingly many celebrities have been the victim of bullying when they were young. Bullying is a serious problem to such an extent that many children and teenagers are afraid to go to school. The main reasons for becoming a victim of bullying are appearance and social status. Bullies attack their victims physically and psychologically. Bullying can have terrible effects on its victims. Schoolwork may suffer, but also health. Research suggests that victims may suffer from mental health problems later in life such as depression, low self-esteem and anxiety. This doesn't have to be the case though. Many famous people have been bullied as a child and despite this experience have become very successful.

B. We cited appearance as a major reason for being bullied. Ironically, the exact reason for being bullied has made some celebrities successful. Supermodel Tyra Banks for example was made fun of for being so thin. This exact thin physique helped her to have a very successful career as a model. Athlete Michael Phelps was bullied in school for his long arms. Later he won several medals at the Olympic Games and those long arms will certainly not have been at his disadvantage.

C. Batman actor Christian Bale used to be beaten up a lot when he was a kid. He feels that it has made him stronger. It was for him a lesson for life. **Christian didn't hit back.** Violence often makes things worse as you don't know what the bully's response will be. Using violence could in the end have brought him more trouble. Holding the anger cannot be easy but perhaps humor can be thrown in to fend the bully off. Comic actor Chris Rock for example claims he developed his quick wit as a response to being bullied.

D. **Actor and singer Selena Gomez** was bullied all the way through elementary and middle school. She said that it was her energy and focus that made her a target. Ultimately, the experience has made her a stronger person. A similar story we hear from colleague singer Rihanna. She also got bullied in school but now she is even grateful as the teasing has made her tough. Extravagant pop star Lady Gaga went even further as she actively uses her experience of being bullied to reach out to her fans and this way tries to give them hope. Singer and actor Brittany Snow also used her negative experience for something positive by setting up a non-profit organization that seeks to put an end to bullying.