

Reading Test

About thirty per cent of students say that they have been miserable because someone has bullied them at school. Bullying is never going to disappear. You will all start your teaching careers next year so it is important that you learn to recognize the signs of bullying and know how to help victims. Read these accounts of bullying and discuss what a teacher could do.



'My name is Tony. I was bullied at primary school by a boy in my class. He bullied me because I was shy and overweight. I was also a good student and he wasn't. I didn't tell anyone because I was too frightened. At first, he just made me give him answers to homework exercises. Then he used to punch me if I didn't give him sweets and things. Everyone was scared of him but nobody helped me. I used to feel sick before school. Then one day he and his family left the area and my life changed.'

'My name is Joanna. One day I started receiving horrible text messages on my mobile. I didn't worry until they started coming every day. And then I got a photo of myself in the park. I was sitting on the grass reading a book. I was very frightened because someone had followed me there. Then a classmate showed me a Facebook page with photos of me. Some of the girls in my class were very unpleasant and one even posted rude comments about me on the page. There was no name on the Facebook account so I never found out who was responsible. I got depressed and wanted to go to the doctor. I didn't tell my parents or anyone else. I regret that now but I've never trusted anyone since then.'

'My name's John. There was a gang of older boys who bullied me at school. They stopped me twice and stole my mobile phone. One day I was walking home alone and they attacked me. One of them filmed the attack with his mobile. They posted it online to make me feel bad. Some of my classmates thought it was very funny. In the end a teacher saw the bullies punching another boy and called the police. I'm glad they didn't get away with it.'

Read a talk about bullying. Are the sentences true, false or not mentioned?
Choose the correct answer.

1. Tony was bullied by a boy called Marcus.
 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Not mentioned
2. The bully made Tony help him with his school work.
 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Not mentioned
3. Tony told his teacher about his problem but she did nothing.
 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Not mentioned
4. In the end, the boy stopped bullying Tony.
 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Not mentioned
5. Joanna was a victim of cyber-bullying.
 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Not mentioned
6. Joanna's classmates knew who the bully was.
 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Not mentioned
7. The experience changed Joanna's life.
 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Not mentioned
8. A teacher saw some boys attacking John and called the police.
 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Not mentioned

Read a talk about bullying. Answer the questions.

1. Who bullied Tony?

2. What did the bully make Tony do?

3. When did the bullying stop?

4. When did Joanna start worrying?

5. Who helped Joanna?

6. What does Joanna regret?

7. What did the bullies steal from John?

8. How were the bullies identified?
