



Topic: Bullying

Key Question:

Should students expect to be safe in the hallways?

This scenario was contributed by Lanelle Brousard.

Scenario:

Jim, a 4'6" shy sixth grader, has just enrolled in a new school because of his father's new job. Since he's a late enrollee, he learns that there are no lockers available except in the 8th grade hallway. He finds his top locker and because of his small stature, he has trouble even reading the combination dial.

As he struggles to open his locker, George, a 5'9" eighth grader comes to get his books from the locker below Jim's. George takes one look at the small boy who has the locker and laughs.

He yells to the other students in the hallway, "Hey, look at the midget!" Then he continued, "What are you doing in our hallway, shrimp?" Other eighth graders stop and gather around. Jim is so startled he doesn't know what to say.

George talks louder, "Hey, mouse, don't you know to answer when I'm talking to you?" Other boys chime in, "What grade are you in?" "You're too little to be an eighth grader.", "What are you doing in this hall anyway?"

By now, Jim is shaking and trying not to cry. Another eighth grader, Carlos, comes up and says, "Hey guys! Back off a little. You're scaring the kid."

George says, "We don't need your hero act here, Carlos. And we don't need this scared little mouse in our hallway. I think that's what I'm gonna call him. Mouse. Then George turns to Jim, "Hey, Mouse, get out of my way so I can get my book."

Jim finally manages to stammer, "My name is J-Jim."

George replies, "No, your name is now officially Mouse. Run away little mouse, before I break your little mouse neck."

Jim grabs his backpack and hurries away. Now, every time he tries to go to his locker, George is around, taunting him and not allowing Jim to open his locker. The other boys have joined in the harassment, and even Carlos has made a few intimidating remarks to Jim.

Today, one of Jim's teachers reprimanded him about carrying around his backpack. "Don't you know you're supposed to leave your books in your locker?" she asks.

Continued Topic: Bullying in the Hallways

Key Question: Should students expect to be safe in the hallways?

Discussion questions:

1. What should Jim do?
2. Would this incident have happened if teachers had been patrolling the hallways between classes?
3. Do you think Carlos is a victim too? Why or why not?
4. How does peer pressure influence adolescent behavior?
5. What should students do in a case like this?

Correlated TEKS:

ELPS: 1A, 2H, 3G, 3H, 5F, 5G

ELAR: 25B, 25A, 18C, 23B

CCRS, E/LAS IV Listening A

Health 2E, 5C, 5K, 7A, 7B, 10A, 10B, 10D, 11A, 11B, 11C, 11D, 11F, 12F

Physical Education 7B, 7E

Social Studies (7th grade) 17B, 23A, 23B

Social Studies (8th grade) 20C, 21B