



Topic: Bullying

Key Question:

Why do people treat people who are not like themselves differently?

This scenario was contributed by Jessica Olivares.

Scenario:

Melissa's family moved to a new city when she was eight years old. She had never been a part of such a diverse community so everyone noticed right away that she was "different" in many ways. As the years went by, Melissa was left out of social circles and didn't make many friends. Students would even make fun of her in class or show outward frustration whenever she would speak or ask questions. Eventually Melissa gave up on trying to fit in and started dressing in all black and developed different hairstyles, which increased the taunting. Despite this, she kept a positive attitude and her peers did not appreciate that either.

Discussion questions:

1. Why do you think Melissa was able to keep a positive attitude?
2. Why do people become frustrated or uncomfortable with others who are different from themselves?
3. How could her peers have responded to Melissa instead of taunting her? What difference would it make?

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