Different Perspectives

A bystander is anyone who witnesses bullying or hears about bullying. There are different roles bystanders can take.

In this activity the three roles are:

1. Seeing the bullying and the victim is your close friend.
2. Seeing the bullying and the victim is just someone you know.
3. You hear about the bullying from others.

**GOAL:** This activity will help students understand the different perspectives bystanders have and how to react to each one.

Below are three different scenarios. Each scenario is seen from the three different bystander perspectives. As you read through each scenario, answer the following questions.

1. What **role** or perspective is this?
2. How do you **think** the victim is feeling?
3. What is something you could do that would **reinforce** the bully?
4. What are three things you could do to **help** the victim?

**Scenario 1**

1. You are in a group of friends and the group has decided that they are going to ignore Haley for the rest of the day. No one is supposed to talk to her and if she comes near your group, everyone is supposed to move away from her. You are also supposed to pretend to whisper about her when she is around.

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1. You are standing in the hallway and you see Haley being excluded by her friends. They are ignoring her and moving away when she comes near them. Her friends are also whispering and looking at Haley.

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1. You are sitting in class and Haley walks in. She is hugging her books close to her chest and crying. You have heard that her friends have been ignoring her today and saying some pretty mean things about her.

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**Scenario 2**

1. You are sitting at lunch with some girlfriends and they start discussing some juicy gossip about Clara, a good friend of yours. They ask you if you know anything about her. You know a lot about her and can share it with the group, which means you will probably be the favorite in the group that day.

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1. You are standing in the lunch line with a good friend of yours. She starts telling you some gossip she heard about Clara, a girl you know.

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1. It is the end of lunch and you have just heard the gossip about Clara. You can tell the gossip has pretty much spread around the entire lunch room. Everyone is looking at Clara as she throws away her lunch and leaves with her head down.

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**Scenario 3**

1. You and two of your friends are outside school in the morning talking. Madison, another friend of yours walks up and the girls begin to give her the silent treatment. Madison asks if you all are mad at her. Your friends tell her they are tired of her trying to be better than everyone else. They then threaten to reveal her crush to the entire school over Facebook.

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1. You are standing outside of the school waiting for the doors to open. You overhear one of Madison’s friends telling her how she is tired of her trying to be better than everyone. She then threatens to tell everyone about a crush Madison has.

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1. You are waiting for the door to open to your first class. You see Madison standing by herself instead of with her group of friends. You know the girls she is friends with and you are pretty sure they have done something mean to her.

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