

Mini Play Number Five

I'M A BULLY ARE YOU?

Bullying often affects children at school. Those being bullied can experience much distress. Why are they bullied? How can they cope? Why do bullies bully? Are there different types of bullies? Can they change?

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BULLYING

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FOREWARD

Zik-Zak Corolla's mini plays for pleasure and purpose.

The accounts in the plays are drawn from real-life experiences but the characters are fictitious.

The plays will help raise awareness and promote useful discussion of social issues that now effect most families. The aim is to help safeguard our kids from the increasing dangers they face in this ever-changing world.

Interactive and fun, the plays and the following *Questions for Discussion*, help raise awareness of challenges that affect the younger generation. They have been designed to promote discussion and dialogue especially between kids and their parents or guardians, teachers and others who are genuinely concerned about the welfare of our society.

Because the plays address real issues the language used is at times direct but is unlikely to be offensive. Feel comfortable about playing.

Tips for playing

Drop the directional notes and change the genders of the characters if it is more appropriate to your setting and cast; but be sure to follow the general thrust of the play. Short, the plays may be, but they are carefully researched, thoughtfully penned – and they pack a punch!

It is important to have fun acting out the plays and to get fully involved in the *Questions for Discussion*. Remember not to be judgemental but to listen, consider and learn.

Get Involved. Get Motivated. Play Safe.

Invite your family and friends around for the evening. Make a night of playing and learning. Have some fun!

Speak to the teachers at your kids' school. Get competitions going – Best Production, Best Actor, Best Answer, Best Lesson Learned. *

Contact local groups and clubs to put on a production of a selection of the plays. *

Be expansive. Get on social media (if it is safe and sensible) and spread the word. *

Go Big! Invite the local radio and TV station to come and see your very own special premiere. *

** Performances are authorized for educational purposes only; not for commercial gain.*

Enjoy! Hugs! – Zik-Zak Corolla

LIST OF PLAYS

No.	Subject	Title of Play
1	Alcohol/Driving	Bumpy Ride
2	Alcohol/Social Media	One More Shot
3	Peer Pressure	Movie Madness
4	Peer Pressure	The Breeze and the Wind
5	Bullying	I'm a Bully Are You?
6	Gun Crime	Mommy
7	Bullying	He Deserves Respect
8	Bullying	Gotta Change Wanna Change
9	Drugs	How Is Sally Getting On?
10	Drugs	A Fish on the Line
11	Drugs	Will You Be My Girl?
12	Drugs	You Gotta Show Love
13	Depression	The Phone Call
14	Depression	Black Dog
15	Child Sexual Abuse	No. 26
16	Child Sexual Abuse	The Restaurant
17	Knife Crime	1:30am
18	Knife Crime/Gangs	Trouble Brewing
19	Knife Crime/Gangs	23
20	Body Image	Carrots and Onions
21	Single Mom	That Night
22	Sex/Alcohol	Fast Car
23	Self-Harm/Sexual Abuse	Do You Think They'll Believe You?
24	Cutting/Self-Harm	Me and My Mom
25	Self-Harm	Brain Box
26	Gambling	The Monster
27	Binge Drinking	A Target to Kill
28	Binge Drinking	What a Party!
29	Gun Crime	Rap A Ta Tat Tat Tat
30	Gun Crime	Miss Isabella Lindeman
31	Cyberbullying	Drastic Action

P5 Subject: Bullying

Title: I'm a Bully Are You?

Characters

Hiromi

Kristen

Jenny

Commentator

Professor

Jeff

Ron

Teaser

Have you ever been bullied? Do you know a bully? Are you a bully? Do you know what a bully is? Do you think bullying is harmless fun or a bit of a problem? Check out the scene.

Scene One

Play with pathos, emotions and feeling. Get inside the character. It's serious but have some fun playing these characters. All the characters are seated and facing the audience with the exception of the commentator who has his back to the audience.

Hiromi I'm not an emotional person, but I got to the point of not wanting to go to school. My stomach hurt and every morning after breakfast, I threw up.

Kristen In elementary school they put gum in my hair, teased me about my appearance and threatened time and again to beat me up. I was relieved when I moved school and then I met Jenny.

Jenny I didn't like her much (nodding toward Kristen) She was too pretty – a bit of a book worm. Teachers pet – you know the type. But I was going to enjoy our time together (Laughs, slight pause). Oh! By the way, my name is Jenny.

Commentator (Turning, walking and talking) You know there's probably no single definition that covers all aspects of bullying. What do you reckon professor?

Professor You're probably right. But it has been called "A wilful conscious desire to hurt another and put him or her under stress" – the stress is created not only by what actually happens but fear of what might happen.

Jenny (Walking up to Kristen and pulling her up out of her seat) It wasn't just you (Speaking to Kristen) I gave a bad time too, you pathetic Pansy. I went for anybody and everybody (Pushing Kristen away).

Kristen (Shaken, speaking to Jenny) It wasn't the physical abuse that caused me most pain. It was the lies you posted on social media that hurt deeply. I felt helpless and for months I cried myself to sleep (Pause, thinking) and the isolation at school – no one talking to me – I had my lunch alone for a whole year. The pain was unbearable. I wanted to kill myself (Pause) and I found a way.

Jenny (To Kristen) I so much wanted to hurt you. I began to hate you (Slight pause) like my mom's new husband hated me. Every day he hurt me, bullied me. (Getting more intense) He'd spit at me. His eyes undressed me. I got angry deep inside, really angry. Twisted knives in my stomach, sick, spewing up in the bathroom. Once you feel that pain you want to dish that pain out.

Kristen That's not an excuse for treating me like you did. School is a place where you're supposed to learn, not to be thrown around and get death threats!

Professor (Turning to Kristen who is now seated) You're probably right Kristen. But there is a big difference between a reason and excuse. The reasons why a child becomes a bully does not excuse the wrong behaviour, but they may help us to understand it.

Commentator That's so true professor. Anger at the bully's conduct can blind us, filling us with frustration and even hatred but if we get insight into their behaviour it may help cool our anger and help us to find solutions.

Jeff (Speaks with a stutter) I wished someone would have helped me.

Hiromi Who are you?

Jeff I'm Jeff (Pause) and I'm dead.

Ron (Putting his hand up) Excuse me!

Hiromi (Ignoring Ron) Why are you dead Jeff?

Ron Excuse me!

Jeff (Ignoring Ron and stuttering) I shot myself.

Hiromi Oh my Jeff! I am sorry. How did that happen?

Ron Excuse me. I know!

Commentator How do you know Ron?

Ron Because he shot me first. By-the-way, I'm dead as well.

Commentator, Hiromi, Kristen, Professor, Jenny (together) Oh! dear Ron! We are sorry.

Commentator But what do you mean Ron? Can you please explain?

Ron (Almost blasé, certainly dispassionate) I suppose it's my fault. I can see that now, you know with a bit of distance between us, so-to-speak. I kept poking fun at Ja Ja Ja Jeff (Stuttering), slapping him about the head now and again. The occasional spit on his back – I humiliated him best I could 'specially in front of his buddies. It turned me on, made me feel good. I pushed him as hard as I could – I loved it! Until that Monday, you know after that weekend.

Jeff The weekend I went to the mountains, hunting with my dad. I was seething with anger – rage, because of the treatment he (Pointing at Ron) gave me on Friday after school. Every time I fired a shot I thought of Ron's stomach. His guts exploding. Dad noticed I was edgy and after Saturday Dad packed his rifle away and we went fishing. He was teaching me to hunt you see.

Professor Was it your father's rifle you used to kill Ron, Jeff?

Jeff Yeah! I put it inside a golf bag after dad had gone to work. At lunch time at school, well, I told Ron I'd got something for him.

Ron I was a bit surprised (Looking at the audience).

Jeff (Jeff acts out the following). After we went into the locker-room, I asked Ron to lock the door and when he turned around . . . I hit him in the guts as hard as I could.

Ron I was winded, couldn't breathe, I'm lying on the floor. Jeff pulled out the rifle.

Jeff I saw the fear in his face. I let him wait a second, two seconds – I don't know. He wet himself (Laughing), the big man peed his pants. I took aim at his guts (Pause) and pulled the trigger. Bang!

Ron It was like being hit with a sledge hammer. My body started shaking. I didn't die straight away.

Jeff I saw him writhing and shaking. The room was spattered with blood. I turned the rifle on me. It was difficult to get the barrel in my mouth and hold the trigger, but I managed it.

Ron His brains blew out on the back wall.

Jeff (Thinking) Of course I'd do things differently, you know, if I could that is.

Ron So would I.

Commentator What would you do?

Jeff I'd tell someone, about the teasing, the bullying. I'd tell Dad, a teacher, anyone who could help.

Ron I'd put myself in his shoes. He was a good guy really. I was just a stupid jerk.

Professor (Speaking to commentator) Of course, this is an extreme example.

Commentator (Turning to audience) Sure, but it happens far too often.

Professor There are different types of bullies.

Ron Physical Bullies. These are the easiest ones to identify. They act out their anger by hitting, shoving, or kicking their chosen target – or by damaging their property.

Hiromi Verbal Bullies use words to hurt and humiliate their target. Name-calling, insults or persistent harsh teasing. It generally does the trick.

Kristen The ones who spread nasty rumours about their target. It's mainly females who do it – the Relationship Bully.

Jenny And there's what's called the Reactive Victim. These are victims of bullying who turn into bullies themselves. Not that that's an excuse of course but it does help explain it.

Professor The interesting thing is generally, we all know who the bully is. But we don't say.

Jenny I'm a bully. Are you? (Looking to the audience)

Commentator Point to the bully? (Pause. Then all the actors slowly point to Ron and Jenny)

THE END

Questions for Discussion for I'm a Bully Are You?

1. What is a bully?
2. How does a bully, bully?
3. Does bullying really harm the victim?
4. Does the bully have a problem?
5. What do you feel about each character?
6. How can you stop being bullied?
7. How can you stop being a bully?
8. What can bullying lead to?
9. Throw open the discussion.

THE END