

Mini Play Number Seven

HE DESERVES RESPECT

Bullying is destructive and can cause lasting harm to the victim. Other people can be involved too. Those who encourage the bully. Those who just don't care about the situation and stand idly by and those who cover up the bullying. How would you react if you were a victim? How would you react if your child is being bullied?

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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

P7 Subject: Bullying

Title: He Deserves Respect

Characters

John's mom

John

Alex

Alex's mom

Commentator

Kid 1

Kid 2

Kid 3

Other kids

Joan

Headteacher

Teaser

John is handicapped. He and his mother struggle with life. John is bullied at school and suffers. Will there be anyone to help him?

Play Tip: Merge the scenes where appropriate if you want to.

Scene One

John's mom Now give me a kiss (Handing John his lunchbox) No one's looking. You have a nice day.

John Thanks Mom (smiling at the kiss, then turning and walking away)

Scene Two

Alex We got that screwed-up kid in our class you know.

Alex's mom Don't let that bother you honey. I don't know why they send kids like that to normal schools.

Alex See you later Mom.

Commentator

That 'screwed-up kid' Alex just dissed is a really kind guy that just so happens to have a handicap. Now just what do I mean?

Kid 1 He has trouble with his posture.

Kid 2 He sometimes gets the tremors. You know, like shaking.

Kid 3 Occasionally he has trouble speaking. At times he gets seizures.

Kid 2 What we're saying is that from time to time we all have problems to deal with. Some of them private, even secret. Some of our own making.

Kid 3 But our friend John here has a whole bunch of problems to deal with every day.

Kid 1 And he still comes to school and joins in with what he can do.

Kid 3 Respect man. Respect.

Scene Three

(At the lockers in school, Alex deliberately bumps into John)

Alex What you doing man? Don't push me.

John I'm sorry Alex (Shaking). My mistake.

(Both walking to the classroom. Alex continues to harass John).

Scene Four

(In the classroom)

Alex Hey what's this? (Grabs Johns bag and throws it to the floor).

Teacher You guys be quiet please.

Alex (Spits on the teachers back).

Other Kids (Roar with approval)

Teacher (Is intimidated but ignores the assault)

Scene Five

(School bell sounds and kids leave to go home)

Alex Hey! Screw-up! (Pushing John and spiting at him in the face).

John Please Alex. I said I was sorry this morning.

Other kids (Laughing derisively)

Alex See that water screw-up? Get down on your knees (Pushing John down).

John (Resisting). Please! Its freezing. This is the only school kit I've got.

Alex Get down! (Louder, more demanding). I said get down!

(Alex pushes John to his knees, kicks him in his side, punches him in the side of his face and tries to force him to lie down in the water.)

John Please Alex! I'm sorry. Sorry. No, don't do it. Urgh! Urgh! (Silence then quietly sobbing and shaking). John is beaten, left with no self-respect he complies.

Other kids You low-life screw-up! (They cross the water using John's back as a stepping-stone, deepening his humiliation)

Onlookers (Say and do nothing)

Scene Six

Joan (On the phone) Mrs. Lettering again.

Headmistress Oh! really Joan. Tell her it was just kids playing. I'm busy.

Joan It's the third time . . .

Headmistress I know this is the third time she's phoned but really, we can't do much about it. I'm out at dinner tonight! (Pause) All right, if she's that distraught I'll speak to her. Put her on then.

John's mom I know there was a group of them Headmistress, but Alex was the ringleader and John is terribly hurt. It's not right! Something needs to be done about it.

Headmistress Yes, that's fine Mrs Lettering but it's easier said than done. And we have to think about the school's reputation. We don't want to make a big thing out of it. They're only children after all.

John's mom There were plenty of witnesses. It was wicked what happened. And I want other kids to be protected from such nasty children. I'm going to get help. I'm not having it!

Headmistress Of course Mrs Lettering. We were actually going to give Alex and the other (Pause) perpetrators a three-day suspension. You know, to help them reflect.

John's mom A three-day suspension! What about my John, the other kids?

Headmistress I'm sure we can patch all of this up. It just needs a little compromise.

John's mom Compromise? (Pause and more quietly) Compromise. (She bows her head slightly. Thank you, Headmistress. I'll give it some thought. (Slight pause). Yes. Good afternoon.

(John who been listening bows his head and turns away)

THE END

Questions for Discussion for He Deserves Respect

1. Is everyone sympathetic to those who struggle?
2. How do you feel about Alex and the other kids who got involved in the bullying?
3. How do you feel about the attitude displayed by Alex's mom?
4. How do you feel about the onlookers who said and did nothing? Can you understand their thinking?
5. Do you feel John had a strong character?
6. How could you help John and his mom?
7. How do you feel about the actions of the headteacher?
8. What type of a person is a bully? Do you feel there are reasons why they act that way?
9. How can you make sure you don't turn into a bully?
10. What did you learn from the play?
11. Throw open the discussion?

THE END