

# From bystanders to upstanders

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So now you know that a bystander can use their powers for good and be an upstander by helping someone out who's being bullied. Below are three scenarios that are examples of online bullying or harassment. If you want, create a fourth scenario that happened with people you know, and come up with responses that include both upstanding and basic bystanding. Each of the three scenarios already created has a list of responses. Read each response and decide whether it's what a bystander would do or what an upstander would do, then put a "B" for "bystander" or a "U" for "upstander" in the blank next to the response. If there's time, have a class discussion about the ones that seemed to make it harder to decide and why.

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## Scenario 1

A friend of yours dropped her phone by the drinking fountain near the school soccer field. Someone found it and sent a really mean message about another student to a bunch of people on her soccer team, then put the phone back by the drinking fountain. The student who was targeted told your friend she was a terrible person for sending that message, even though she wasn't the one who sent it. No one knows who sent the mean message. You...

- Feel sad for your friend but do nothing because no one knows who did that mean thing to her
  - Go find the person targeted and ask them how they feel and whether you can help.
  - Spread the drama by sharing the mean message with other friends.
  - And your friend get everybody on the soccer team to post compliments about the person who was targeted.
  - And your friend anonymously report the incident to your principal, letting them know that everybody needs to talk about good phone security and locking their phones.
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## Scenario 2

Your teacher created a class blog for language arts, giving the class the ability to write, edit, and post comments. The next day she's out sick and the substitute doesn't notice that things are going south in the class blog – someone is posting seriously mean comments about one of the students in the class. You...

- Comment on the comments by saying things like, "This is so not cool" and "I am's friend, and this is not true."
- Ignore it until your teacher gets back.
- Get other students to post nice comments and compliments about the student being targeted.
- Tell the substitute that mean behavior is happening in the class blog, and they might want to let the teacher know.

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### Scenario 3

There is an online game that many of your friends are playing. Usually the chat in the game is about what happens in the game. Sometimes it's a bit mean, but usually it's just healthy rivalry among friends. But that one time a player starts saying really mean things about one of your friends who is also playing and he really doesn't want to stop. He continues the next day. You ...

- Call up your friend and tell them you don't like this any more than they do and ask them what they think you two should do.
- Call everybody you know who plays with you guys (making sure your friend knows you're doing this) to see if you can get everybody's agreement that it's time to call out the nastiness.
- Decide to wait and see if the kid stops, then maybe do something.
- Walk away from the game for a while.
- Look for the game's community rules and if bullying isn't allowed, report the nasty behavior using the game's reporting system.

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### Scenario 4

Create a real-life scenario as a class, based on a situation one of you has heard about, then come up with both bystander and upstander responses to show you definitely know what we're talking about now!