**Stand Up! Speak Out!**

**BEIN’ BRAVE: Step Up to the Plate**

***Guide for Discussion, Reflection or Role Play***

It takes *moral courage* to *stand up and speak out* for someone who is being hurt—by verbal, physical, or cyber attack. But when someone is in danger, we’ve got to *step up to the plate* and do the right thing. And that’s not *snitchin’*—that’s *bein’ brave*: making tough *conscious* *choices* about what role(s) we play.

**Vocabulary**

Ally: a supporter of equality who stands up for *anyone* who is the target of bias and bullying

moral courage: the courage to *do the right thing* especially when others are *not* doing the right thing

perpetrator: someone who intentionally causes harm (i.e. a bully is a perpetrator)

collaborator: someone who helps the perpetrator (bully), by joining in with bullying or teasing

silent bystander: someone who is a witness to harm being done, but does and says nothing to stop it

conscious choice: an action we take after *thinking* about it, and weighing what the consequences may be

target: the person being hurt or bullied

intent: purpose

intention: the outcome you hope will result from an action you take

motivation: the reason why someone does something

step up to the plate: a baseball metaphor meaning do the right thing, even if it’s difficult

1. ***Bein’ brave, not snitchin’ / Speak out and make a difference***

***Stop dishin’ the dirt, stop the hurt / Sound the alarm, stop the harm***

The lyrics of this song say there is a difference between *snitchin’* and *speaking* out. Do you agree? Does it make a difference if some*thing* is being damaged or some*one* is being hurt? Consider the following scenarios. ***Identify the roles people play*** in each one: Who are the perpetrators, collaborators, silent bystanders? If you were there, ***would you be an Ally?*** Would you speak out on the spot, call for help? If someone was being hurt—or about to be hurt—would you report it anonymously? ***How do you decide when to speak out? What if you were the target?***

* Someone cut in line in front of you in the cafeteria.
* Four senior boys regularly target a quiet, ‘nerdy’ boy, call him names, grab his backpack, and slam him into the lockers. Lots of students see it, but they just move out of the way.
* Anna, a new girl in school, is really pretty and has been the target of rumors by Liza and her friends. Everyone knows who has been posting mean things about her on Facebook. Now there’s a rumor that the kids in their crowd are going to ‘get her’ after the dance.

1. ***If it’s hate and fear / You reap what you sow***

***Plant poison seeds / And watch the hate grow…***

***Get a laugh at my expense / Make accusations under false pretense(s)***

***Paint me with suspicion / Just to elevate your position…***

What does *intention* or *motivation* have to do with how we decide if reporting something is *snitchin’* or *bein’ brave?* Give examples that illustrate the expressions and metaphors above.

1. ***If it’s love and compassion / You’re the Gucci of being-kind fashion***

***You’re the talk of the runway / Cause you walk the walk in your own way (in a kind way)***

A girl with a physical disability trips in the hallway. Everything in her back pack spills onto the floor. Almost all the students in the hall stand around and laugh. One of the few openly gay students in the school comes forward, helps her pick up her books, and walks her away from the crowd. Identify the roles. Why was that simple act so brave? What would you have done? How does concern about *what people think* undermine our moral courage? What can we do about that?

1. ***You got to step up to the plate / Or you’re a cold collaborator***

***Backin’ up a perpetrator / Is that who you wanna be?***

***If you’re the target of contempt / Would you want me to stand by silently***

***While you get put down violently / Well, that’s not who I am***

Start a log to help you observe more carefully situations that happen in and outside of school. Write a brief description of what happened and who played each role. What roles do you play?

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