

Violence is never the Answer

Everyday I walk into school with a plan in my head. A plan that I think no one wants because they are so caught up in doing things already that they don't even realize it. My plan is to stop bullying at my school. I am tired of people turning to fists for the answer. One day I was sitting at lunch and my friend came up and asked me if she could sit next to me. Of course I said yes. I wouldn't turn anybody down if they wanted to sit next to me. All of a sudden this girl came where we were sitting and started saying that she was going to beat my friend up. As I was sitting there hearing all of this, my friend is sitting there laughing. When the girl walked away, my friend started talking about what had just happened. She said, "It's no use fighting her because she is not worth it. Besides I can beat her up in a heartbeat." As everyone is going along with this I said, "Why do you always think that going to fist fights are the answer? It doesn't help."

The girl sitting across from me said, "You should go around with a sign held up that says no violence. Besides you are a goody-girl." I said, "Why should I when nobody is listening to me and no, I am not a goody-girl, I just know what the right thing is." Her response was, "Ok" As like she had nothing else to come back with. I am so sick of everybody fighting. Almost everyday I come home and tell my parents that I want to be home schooled.

Their response is always, "What happened at school today?" I mean a lot of times I want to call it quits and be done with everything, but I know I can't do that. I want to set an example for everybody. But I know that's not what a seventh grade girl should be doing.

I thought it would be interesting to actually interview some people and asked them these questions, "How do you feel when you get picked on? What do you want to do about it? If the teachers knew about this, do you think they would help? Do you feel safe in your school?" I actually was surprised with some of the responses, but here is what people said that I interviewed. "I feel like teachers need to take more action, and the bullies need some other way of being approached for things to stop. We have to try different ways of stopping this. I was in the gym one day and all of the other kids including me were getting paranoid and feeling threatened. It was because of this girl in my homeroom. She kept pushing kids down including me and she pushed my friend down while knocking her glasses off at the same time. She attempted to step on my friend's glasses. I told her that it was wrong to step on my friend's glasses and pushing other kids just so you could win the

game. She got defensive and cursed at me and started screaming in my face until the teacher broke us up. Honestly, I think that the teacher should have done something because the student didn't even get in trouble. I think for bullying to stop the teachers need to reinforce things more and I believe that it would put an end to some of it. I also don't feel safe around kids who aren't with friends because they might make fun of me or be rude."

Another person said, "When I get picked on at school I think that everyone is looking and laughing at me. It makes me feel embarrassed. I get picked on because everyone makes fun of my name. I want to go away as fast as I can. I do feel safe at this school but I sometimes don't want to go to school because I always get picked on. I believe the teachers won't help because if they would help, nobody would be getting picked on anymore."

Another person said, "When I get picked on, this ends up ruining my day. One time when I was in class this girl and boy started making fun of what I look like, the things I do, and making up raps about it. I thought that the teacher saw this, but even if she did she wouldn't do much about it. I do at times feel safe but most of the time I don't because of the people who make fun of me."

Here is what another person said, "When I get picked on, I feel kind of sad because I don't know why the kids are picking on me. I would never think of throwing a fist because that would make it worse. I would feel like talking to the kid asking why they are bullying me. One time one of my closest friends at the time was calling me fat. It made me feel depressed because I think that something is wrong with my appearance. I thought that I didn't need help and that I could solve it by myself. I believe that the teachers wouldn't do anything at all because one time I saw a fight and the teacher didn't do anything about it at all. Sometimes I feel safe in school and other times I don't."

Another person said, "I feel upset that somebody would bully another person. Normally if I was in this situation where I was being teased I would automatically stand up for myself. It gets me really upset when people sing a song because of my last name and when people criticize my hair. I think that teachers would've helped me, but they only help big problems. Not always do I feel safe at school because everybody is always threatening to beat each other up. Right now I would rather be home schooled."

The last person that I interviewed wrote, “It stinks when I get picked on. I want to throw punches at them when this happens, but I don’t. When I was in second grade this kid bashed my face and called me a shrimp. My response to him was pick on someone your own size. I believe that the teachers wouldn’t have helped this situation because it was a little thing. I also feel safe in the school I am in right now.”

Everyday I find that somebody was being picked on. I want to stop bullying in my school, I plan in trying to make my school a better place by setting an example for everybody, and if I see any bullying going on I will make sure that I tell an adult that can do something about it. I also hope this helps our teachers and administrators to see what is really going on within this school.