

Chapters Six - Ten*Social Issues: Bullying***Statistics:**

- 30% of youth in the United States are estimated to be involved in bullying either as a bully, a target of bullying, or both.
- Boys more often physically bully others, while girls bully other girls by spreading rumors about them or excluding them as friends.
- Bullies are usually easily angered, hot-tempered, impulsive, and have little sympathy for their victims.
- 33% of youth report being victimized by cyber-bullying.
- 56% of victims have reported cyber-bullying that occurred in chat rooms, 49% via instant message, and 28% via e-mail. (Because victims are often bullied by more than one method, the numbers here add up to more than 100%.)
- Youth who are bullied are more likely to suffer from future bouts of anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem.

Statistics from SafeYouth.org and LovetoKnowSafety.com

Learn and Discuss:

As a class, discuss bullying that occurs in person and in cyberspace. Share incidents of bullying you have witnessed or been involved in, without giving names or specific details that might give away too much information. Discuss reasons a person may bully others, as well as how bullying affects the victim.

Write:

Choose one of the following activities to complete:

- a fictional narrative which involves bullying
- an autobiographical narrative about the student bullying others or being a victim of a bully
- a skit about dealing positively with a bully

Action and Involvement (Activities to do as a class):

- Ask a guidance counselor or counseling professional to speak to the class about bullying and its ramifications for the bully and the victim.
- Invite a school administrator to speak to the class about the school's policy on bullying.
- Ask a police officer to speak to the class about the legal ramifications of bullying, as well as the statistics regarding bullies' future involvement in criminal activities.
- Have the class create a skit against bullying and present it to the school.
- Sponsor "Stand Against Bullying" week to educate students about the dangers of bullying for the bully and his/her victims.