

ROLE PLAY: A CASE OF BULLYING

Role Card 1

YOU ARE HEADMASTER DR BOSS

First read through the background information:

Fourteen-year-old James Donovan was beaten up regularly by his classmate Robert Mwuwu. A number of other pupils knew about it, some even watched. James got so scared that he faked illness even to his doctor to be allowed to stay home from school.

When asked, Robert, a coloured boy from a large family with an immigrant background said that James had provoked him numerous times by teasing him and calling him insulting names. In his class, Robert was lagging behind in all subjects and was not accepted socially.

James is the only son of wealthy parents. He usually wears expensive brand clothes and always has the latest electronic gadgets. James does well at school because he has been receiving private tuition on a regular basis. He has no idea why he has so few friends.

The form teacher did not act even though knew about the beatings. He hoped the boys would sort it out themselves. He usually sat in another room while James was being tortured.

Now the headmaster has organized a meeting where the victim, the aggressor, the teacher and the headmaster are present. The aim of the meeting is to find out what exactly happened and why the situation escalated. What would be a suitable punishment for Robert Mwuwu? How can school bullying be avoided in the future?

Now start the discussion round:

- Introduce yourself.
- Ask questions what exactly happened.
- Tell the others how you heard about the incident.
- Try to find out why it happened.
- Find out what role the teacher played.
- Think of suggestions on how to deal with the victim and the aggressor.
- You are the one to make a final decision on what should happen to those who were involved in the incident.

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Role Card 2

YOU ARE IMMIGRANT STUDENT ROBERT MWUWU

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Now start the discussion round:

- Introduce yourself.
- Explain what happened from your point of view.
- Give reasons for your behaviour.
- Try to come up with arguments why your punishment should not be too severe.
- Apologize to James for what you did.
- Describe your present feelings with regard to your earlier behaviour.
- What should change about the classroom atmosphere in your view?

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Role Card 3

YOU ARE BULLYING VICTIM JAMES DONOVAN

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James is the only son of wealthy parents. He usually wears expensive brand clothes and always has the latest electronic gadgets. James does well at school because he has been receiving private tuition on a regular basis. He has no idea why he has so few friends.

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Now the headmaster has organized a meeting where the victim, the aggressor, the teacher and the headmaster are present. The aim of the meeting is to find out what exactly happened and why the situation escalated. What would be a suitable punishment for Robert Mwuwu? How can school bullying be avoided in the future?

Now start the discussion round:

- Introduce yourself.
- Describe what exactly Robert did to you.
- Describe your own reactions to this.
- What consequences did Robert's bullying have for you (at school, at home)?
- In your opinion, what should happen to Robert?
- How would you have expected your fellow pupils and your form teacher to behave?

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Role Card 4

YOU ARE FORM TEACHER MR CRAMMER

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James is the only son of wealthy parents. He usually wears expensive brand clothes and always has the latest electronic gadgets. James does well at school because he has been receiving private tuition on a regular basis. He has no idea why he has so few friends.

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Now the headmaster has organized a meeting where the victim, the aggressor, the teacher and the headmaster are present. The aim of the meeting is to find out what exactly happened and why the situation escalated. What would be a suitable punishment for Robert Mwuwu? How can school bullying be avoided in the future?

Now start the discussion round:

- Introduce yourself.
- Explain how you found out about what went on in your class.
- Tell the others why you did not react.
- In your opinion, what are the reasons for the beatings.
- Do you know of any other cases of bullying?
- Ask for special training on how to treat disruptive pupils.
- Suggest preventive measures to avoid school bullying in the future.