

THE SYNOPSIS

The **Bystander: A Portrait in Apathy** assembly program is a unique way to approach bully prevention. A school culture that tolerates bullying does not come from the administration, the faculty, or the staff; it is the student population that allows bullying behaviors to continue. Knowing that, the only way to disrupt the bullying cycle is to convince the student population that bullying is not something they should tolerate in their school. The largest majority of students to appeal to are the bystanders. This group knows the bullies and the victims. They know where and when the bullying takes place. What they don't know is how they can stop it. **Bystander: A Portrait in Apathy** shows the bystanders how much they have done by doing nothing. It exposes the anger the bully victims feel towards those classmates who know about their torment and do nothing to stop it. This assembly will illustrate to the bystanders just how much is at stake for those who are bullied.

Other bully prevention assemblies come into the school using a variety of methods to convey similar messages about bullying. So much time is spent on how to recognize a bully and how to empower a victim that the bystanders continue to believe they are innocent factors in the equation. Until these students understand how much power they have in creating and maintaining their school climate, they will continue to idly allow bullying to taint their hallways and classrooms.

Bystanders need to realize:

- They **ARE** a part of the problem that perpetuates the bullying cycle.
- They **CAN** do something to make the lives of those bully victims better.
- They **SHOULD** speak up when they see or hear something they think is wrong.
- They **HAVE THE POWER** to make changes for the better in their school.

Bystander: A Portrait in Apathy is an emotionally charged, powerful assembly program that brings to light the very real consequences of allowing bullying to continue. Students will be changed by what they see and hear their classmates address during this assembly and the debriefing sessions that follow. They will think of this assembly the next time they are witness to bullying behaviors. Their conscience will be activated. The hope is that following this performance, they will no longer feel it is okay to watch someone else be tormented; that they will speak up on behalf of those who are the targets of bullied.

It is time to empower the bystanders by letting them know that their silence is no longer an option.