

CRITICAL THINKING BULLYING

Use the following critical thinking questions to help foster an open, student-led discussion on the theme(s) discussed in this episode of The Harbor.

1. **AS A RESULT OF BEING BULLIED BY HIS PEERS AT THEIR LOCAL SKATEPARK, MIKE STOPPED SKATEBOARDING FOR OVER A DECADE.**

Have you ever stopped doing something you enjoyed because someone criticized or made fun of you? Do you think this person's goal was to make you stop? If you could go back, would you respond differently?

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2. **THIS EPISODE FEATURES TWO SEGMENTS FROM STUDENTS WHO HAVE DEALT WITH BULLYING. ONE OF THE STUDENTS IN THE FIRST SECTION SAID SHE PREFERS TO HANG OUT WITH BOYS, "... [B]ECAUSE GIRLS ARE JUST NOT NICE."**

Do you think there's a difference between how boys and girls bully others? Do you think girls bully others more than boys do or vice versa? Why or why not?

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3. **MIKE BELIEVES THAT BULLYING ALWAYS CAUSES A RESPONSE, ONE OF WHICH CAN BE RETALIATION FROM THE PERSON BEING BULLIED.**

Have you ever witnessed what Mike described as the "vicious cycle" of retaliation? What could you or someone else have done to break this cycle?

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4. **MIKE SUGGESTS THAT SOME BULLIES TREAT OTHERS THE WAY THEY DO BECAUSE THEY'RE BEING BULLIED THEMSELVES AND THAT, "... [H]URT PEOPLE OFTEN TIMES REALLY DO HURT PEOPLE."** Have you known any bullies who were being bullied by someone else? How do you think what Mike said applies to this person?

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5. **TOWARDS THE END OF THE EPISODE, MIKE CHALLENGES THOSE WHO HAVE BULLIED OTHERS TO ASK THEMSELVES WHY THEY TREAT OTHERS THE WAY THEY DO.**

With Mike's questions in mind, list some factors that might lead someone to bully another person. Do you think that trying to understand or empathize with a bully could help deter them from bullying? Why or why not?

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