

BEING AN UPSTANDER:

Four Corners Scenarios

For Grades 3-5

SCENARIO 1: You are part of a group chat for your class. Someone posts an embarrassing photo of a classmate, Priya, without her permission and writes mean captions. Other students are reacting with laugh emojis.

CORNER 1

Reply in the chat: "This is bullying. Everyone needs to stop and the photo needs to be deleted now."

CORNER 2

Screenshot the messages and show a trusted adult — a parent, teacher or school counselor — right away.

CORNER 3

Reach out to Priya privately to let her know what happened and ask if she wants help reporting it.

CORNER 4

Message the person who posted it privately: "Take this down. This could seriously hurt Priya and you could get in trouble."

SCENARIO 2: A new student, James, recently moved from another country. A group of kids at lunch keeps mocking his accent and repeating his words in an exaggerated way, laughing loudly.

CORNER 1

Sit down next to James, introduce yourself and invite him to join your friend group.

CORNER 2

Say directly to the kids mocking him, "Making fun of someone's accent is racist and mean. Stop it."

CORNER 3

Report the behavior to a teacher or counselor.

CORNER 4

Speak up in front of the group: "James is speaking multiple languages. How many languages do YOU speak?"

SCENARIO 3: The day before your class field trip to go pumpkin picking, your friend Rachel comes up to you looking sad. She explains that she can't go on the field trip because it falls during Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year.

CORNER 1

Tell Rachel, "I think that's unfair. Do you want me to talk to the teacher with you?"

CORNER 2

Ask to meet with the principal and speak to them about how it's important to check holidays before scheduling field trips.

CORNER 3

Tell your parents what Rachel shared with you. Ask them for help in talking with the principal.

CORNER 4

Tell your teacher how upset Rachel is about missing the field trip. Ask if you can bring her back a pumpkin so she doesn't feel as left out.

SCENARIO 4: Your teacher keeps calling a student named Xiomara (PRONOUNCED: see-oh-MAH-rah) by a shortened nickname she never asked for, saying her real name is "too hard to say." Some students have started using the nickname too and Xiomara has told you it bothers her, but she is afraid to say something to the teacher.

CORNER 1

Encourage Xiomara and offer to go WITH her to talk to the teacher so she does not have to go alone.

CORNER 2

Use Xiomara's correct name every single time in class, even when others use the nickname.

CORNER 3

Privately talk to a school counselor or another trusted adult and explain what is happening.

CORNER 4

Politely say to the teacher, "Her name is Xiomara — she hasn't asked to be called anything different."

SCENARIO 5: During gym class, teams are being picked for a game. Every week, the same student, Omar, is picked last and the team captain always sighs loudly and rolls their eyes when Omar joins.

CORNER 1

When it is your turn to pick, choose Omar first and say, "I want Omar on my team."

CORNER 2

Tell the team captain privately, "I've noticed you always react badly when Omar is on your team. That's making him feel unwanted."

CORNER 3

Talk to the gym teacher and what you've noticed and how it is affecting Omar.

CORNER 4

Walk up to Omar before the game and say, "I'm going to make sure you're picked early today. You're a great player."

SCENARIO 6: During a class discussion about world events, a classmate says, "All people from that religion are dangerous — my parents told me." Several classmates nod along. Fatima, who is Muslim, sinks down in her chair.

CORNER 1

Say to everyone, "That's a stereotype and it's harmful. You can't judge an entire group of people based on what some individuals do."

CORNER 2

After class, check in with Fatima and ask if she is okay and if she wants to talk to a teacher together.

CORNER 3

Raise your hand and ask the teacher to address the comment so the class can have a real conversation about bias.

CORNER 4

After class, talk to your classmate and say, "That comment was not okay. Judging a whole group of people this way is exactly how bias and hatred start."

SCENARIO 7: In the locker room, a group of students is hiding another student's belongings as a prank and laughing at his reaction. The student, Tyrone, is starting to panic trying to find his things.

CORNER 1

Help Tyrone locate his belongings and walk out of the locker room with him.

CORNER 2

Say to the group, "This isn't a prank anymore – it's bullying. Give him his stuff back."

CORNER 3

Report the recurring situation to a coach, teacher or counselor.

CORNER 4

Tell Tyler privately, "This keeps happening to you and it's not okay. Do you want me to go with you to report it?"

SCENARIO 8: Your class is assigned a group project and students get to pick their own groups. You notice that a group of students is quietly telling others not to pick Amara, who is one of only two Black students in the class.

CORNER 1

Immediately invite Amara to join your group.

CORNER 2

Say to the students whispering, "What you're doing is excluding and racist, and that's wrong."

CORNER 3

Tell the teacher so they can address the situation with the class.

CORNER 4

Speak up loud enough for others to hear: "Amara, do you want to join us? We'd be lucky to have you."