

Sexual Harassment: What Will He Do?

1. Alfonso makes a rude comment about Nikki's skirt in front of the class. Victor is Nikki's friend. Most of the kids in the class are laughing and trying to get Victor to join in.

What do you think Victor will do? Why?

2. Charles makes a rude comment about Tammy's skirt in front of the class. Dan is Tammy's friend. While most of the kids in the class are laughing, Dan knows that they wouldn't like if it happened to them.

What do you think Dan will do? Why?

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3. Alex makes a rude comment about Susan's skirt in front of the class. Jamal is Alex's friend. Jamal feels like he wants to make a comment, because he thinks that most of the other kids in the class will think it's funny.

What do you think Jamal will do? Why?

4. Derek makes a rude comment about Janet's skirt in front of the class. José is Derek's friend. José feels pressure to make a comment, but knows that the other kids, despite their laughter, are hoping it never happens to them.

What do you think José will do? Why?

Answer Key

Sexual Harassment

1. Alfonso makes a rude comment about Nikki's skirt in front of the class. Victor is Nikki's friend. Most of the kids in the class are laughing and trying to get Victor to join in.
 - Even though Nikki is Victor's friend, why might he feel pressure to join in?
 - If you *personally* felt that you wanted sexual harassment to stop, but *you think everyone else thinks* it's funny, how might that affect whether or not *you* make sexual comments?

Process points:

- Victor may give in to the pressure to join in because he thinks that everyone else will find it funny.
 - When people laugh at sexual comments, we may assume that everyone thinks it is funny, when in reality, most want it to stop.
 - We might feel pressure to make sexual comments, even though we know it's wrong, in order to fit in with everyone else.
2. Charles makes a rude comment about Tammy's skirt in front of the class. Dan is Tammy's friend. While most of the kids in the class are laughing, Dan knows that they wouldn't like if it happened to them.
 - Despite the class laughing at Charles's comments, why do you think Dan might stop himself from making comments too?
 - How might knowing that most kids do **not** think sexual harassment is funny, and wish it would stop, affect *your* decision to make sexual comments to another classmate?

Process points:

- Dan would not like it if someone were making harassing remarks toward him. He knows that most others would feel the same way and this helps him to make a good decision not to join in.

- Knowing the truth about how others feel helps you to stick to your good decisions. Most kids do not find sexual harassment funny and wish that it would stop.
3. Alex makes a rude comment about Susan's skirt in front of the class. Jamal is Alex's friend. Jamal feels like he wants to make a comment, because he thinks that most of the other kids in the class will think it's funny.
- Why might Jamal wind up making comments about Nikki, even though she is his friend, and he knows that it is wrong?
 - How might believing myths like "most kids think sexual harassment is funny" affect *your* decision to make sexual comments to another classmate?

Process points:

- Jamal feels pressure to join in with his friend because he thinks everyone else in the class will think he's funny.
 - Believing myths and making mistakes about what's really going on can lead you make bad decisions like making sexual comments to another classmate.
4. Derek makes a rude comment about Janet's skirt in front of the class. José is Derek's friend. José feels pressure to make a comment, but knows that the other kids, despite their laughter, are hoping it never happens to them.
- Why do you think José will stick to his decision not to make sexual comments even though Derek is his friend?
 - How might knowing the reality that most kids do not think sexual harassment is funny help you to stop making sexual comments to a classmate?

Process points:

- José is able to imagine how other kids really feel about harassment. This helps him to stick to his decision not to join in.
- When you know the reality of what is going on around you, it is easier to make and stick to your good decisions.