

Noah and Us

Bullies and Blame

Noah was a righteous man; he was blameless in his age; Noah walked with God... The earth became corrupt before God; the earth was filled with lawlessness. (Gen. 6:9-11)

Midrash Tanhuma on Parashat Noah

When Noah came out of the ark, he opened his eyes and saw the whole world completely destroyed. He began crying for the world and said, "God, how could you have done this?" ... God replied, "Oh Noah, how different you are from the way Abraham ... will be. He will argue with me on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah when I tell him that I plan their destruction... But you, Noah, when I told you I would destroy the entire world, I lingered and delayed, so that you would speak on behalf of the world. But when you knew you would be safe in the ark, the evil of the world did not touch you. You thought of no one but your family. And now you complain?" Then Noah knew that he had sinned.

Why was the generation of the Flood utterly destroyed, but not the generation of the Tower of Babel? Because the generation of the Flood were consumed by robbery and violence, while among the generation of the Tower love prevailed.

Midrash Rabbah

***Temple Beth El, Stamford CT
Parashat Noah, 5777
Rabbi Joshua Hammerman***

Print

Close window

Shabbat Parashat Noah - 1 Heshvan 5768 - Noah: Righteous or Regular?

October 13, 2007 – 1 Heshvan 5768

By: Rabbi Aaron Alexander

Torah Reading: *Genesis 6:9 – 11:32*

Maftir: *Numbers 28:9-15*

Haftarah Reading: *Isaiah 66:1-24*

I am often amazed that a seemingly innocent phrase or word recorded in the Torah can generate a rabbinical debate that covers the globe and lasts over 2000 years. The controversy over Noah's essence as a person is a paradigmatic example of this phenomenon. The conversation created below, based on ancient, medieval, and modern commentaries, is an attempt to bring that debate to life through time and space.

Players:

Torah - *God*

Midrash Bereshit Rabbah

Midrash Devarim Rabbah

Rashi - *R. Shlomo Yitzhaki* (1040-1105)

Ibn Ezra - *R. Avraham ibn Ezra* (1092-1167)

Ramban - *R. Moshe ben Nahman Gerondi* (1194-1270)

Zohar - *R. Moshe de Leon* (1250-1305)

Seforno - *R. Ovadiah ben Yaakov Seforno* (1475-1550)

Sefat Emet - *R. Yehudah Aryeh Leib Alter* (1847-1905)

Martin Buber (1878-1965)

Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson - *Dean, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies*

Rabbi Cheryl Peretz - *Associate Dean, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies*

Dr. Richard Elliot Friedman - *Ann and Jay Davis Professor of Jewish Studies, University of Georgia.*

Obi-Wan Kenobi - *Really Powerful Jedi Master*

Narrator: Rabbi Aaron Alexander - *Assistant Dean, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies*

Genesis 6:9: "These are the records of Noah. He was a virtuous man. He was unblemished in *his age*..."

Narrator: Hey! Why do we have these additional words "in his age"? Couldn't the Torah have just said that Noah was virtuous and righteous?

Rashi: Well, the Midrash claims that this seemingly superfluous phrase can be read in two different ways. 1) It is to Noah's praise. If he had lived in a time where being righteous was common, he would have been seen as extremely righteous. 2) On the other hand, "in his age" could also be read to his discredit. He was only righteous in the age that he lived. If, however, he had lived in Abraham's generation, he would have been your average Joe!

Ramban: Rashi, seriously; the correct read is that Noah alone was the righteous man in his age, worthy of being saved from the flood.

Dr. Richard Elliot Friedman: First of all, it is not at all unusual for the words "in his age" to be there. After all, THAT'S WHEN HE LIVED! And I agree with Nachmanides (Ramban), Noah was righteous, or, "unblemished". How do we know this? The Torah teaches us that animals to be sacrificed should be unblemished, i.e., without fault. It would seem that this description would also apply to Noah, where the same word (unblemished) is used.

Narrator: So what was so great about Noah anyway?

Ibn Ezra: He was righteous in his deeds and pure in his heart.

Ramban: Hold on there Ezra! We know from other sources that wholehearted refers to external actions, not heart. But I agree with you that his deeds were righteous. He wasn't violent. He wasn't perverted. He didn't worship idols. I could go on, as usual, but that's enough for now.

Rabbi Peretz: Not perverted, heh? What about the time he got naked in front of his own sons! But, that happens way after the Torah calls him righteous. So maybe he was righteous before the flood, but then acted mischievously later on.

Narrator: But aren't there commentators who think that Abraham and Moshe were even more righteous than Noah? In fact, some might even think Noah wasn't very righteous at all!

Devarim Rabbah: How about this conversation: "Hey Moses," says Noah, "I'm greater than you are because I was saved from the flood." "Actually," replies Moses, "I'm better. I was able to save my generation and myself. You know, the ones who did that golden calf thing! You only saved yourself. You didn't have the strength to save your generation as well."

Narrator: And didn't Abraham save the lowly Sodomites & Gemorites? Couldn't Noah have shown that same compassion?

Zohar: That's right! Abraham fought for those people, but Noah kept silent and didn't request mercy on those in his generation

Martin Buber: In reality, Noah and Abe just had different jobs. Noah was picked for survival. Abe was picked to go on a mission that included others.

Rabbi Artson: Excellent, Martin! It couldn't have been easy for Noah to become righteous with all that bad stuff happening around him. Give him credit- he should be an example for all of us.

Obi-Wan Kenobi: My students, that's how easy it is to let the Dark Side take hold of you. You must constantly fight the evil inclination that resides within you and all around you.

Narrator: Doesn't the Torah give us another hint about whether Noah was righteous or regular?

Genesis 6:9 continued: "...Noah walked *with* God"

Rashi: That might help, but we do have another verse that says Abraham walked *before* God. Therefore, it is possible that Noah needed to walk beside God so that God could support Noah in his righteousness. Abraham, on the other hand, drew his righteous strength from within himself. He could walk on his own.

Bereshit Rabbah: Good point! It's like a King who has two children: He asks the younger child to walk with him, because the child's spiritual faculties are undeveloped and inferior. The King asks the older child to walk before him, because the older child's spiritual powers are developed and superior.

Sefat Emet: Guys, come on. Do you really want to say that Abraham didn't need God's support? He knew God was the source of everything and seriously depended on God.

Seforno: I prefer a more literal read (*peshat*). Noah walked in God's ways, doing good, and rebuking his contemporaries.

Narrator: So there you have it. One God, two midrashim, seven rabbis, two scholars, a mystic, and a Jedi knight. And yet, the most important opinion is absent.

What do YOU think?

Shabbat Shalom,


<http://www.aish.com/tp/b/sw/48971156.html>

Noah's Ark

by Rabbi Shraga Simmons

We all know the story of this week's Parsha: God wants to send a flood to destroy the world, so He tells the righteous Noah to build an ark and bring in two of every animal. Then it rains for 40 days and 40 nights, God sends a rainbow, and Noah lives happily ever after. Right?

Well, at least it makes a good children's story. But given that the Torah is the driving force of the Jewish nation and the eternal source of our collective wisdom, let's take a few minutes to uncover deeper layers of "Noah and the Ark"...

Big Boat

Our first question: What was the terrible sin of Noah's generation that God sought to destroy them? The Talmud (Sanhedrin 57a) tells us that the world was immersed in jealousy, greed, theft, violence, lying, intolerance, deception and fraud. The worst of all transgressions? Explain the great commentators Rashi and Ibn Ezra: People exploited each other sexually.

Before God sends the Flood, Noah spends 120 years building an Ark. (They lived long in those days.) This was no ordinary boat. It measured larger than a football field and contained over a million cubic feet of space! It was outfitted with three separate levels: The top for Noah and his family, the middle for the animals, and the bottom for the garbage.

(Which, by the way, shows the Torah's unique concern for the environment: Even while the world was being destroyed, they wouldn't throw the garbage overboard!)

But there are obviously many ways by which God could have saved Noah. So why did Noah have to bother building an ark? And why did it take him 120 years?!

The Midrash says that God specifically wanted Noah to undertake a strange and unusual project, to arouse people's curiosity. God accentuated the oddity of it all by having Noah construct this huge boat — not at the sea shore — but on a mountain-top! This way people would ask Noah — "What the heck are you doing?!" — and Noah could engage them in discussion about the global crisis, and how catastrophe could be avoided if people would change their ways.

Well, 120 years is a long time, and you would think that Noah would have convinced a lot of people to get back on track. But alas, instead of reaching out to influence others, Noah saw the Ark as his own ticket to survival — a chance to build a big wall and insulate himself from the evils of society.

One Big World

In one sense it is true that we have to protect ourselves and our families. Maimonides warns

us about the danger of living next to neighbors who don't share our system of values. Where there's corruption, the good frequently get swept up with the bad. And we have to guard against this.

It's like the story of the community where everyone was employed as chimney-sweeps. Each day they went to work and got very dirty. But they had one rule: One person from the group had to stay at home each day — so that when the others would return and see his clean face, they'd be able to gauge how dirty they'd become.

In a spiritual sense as well, a home has to stand as a safe haven, to rejuvenate and clean oneself up.

But there's a second side to this. The "Ark" cannot be completely insulated; it must be porous as well. We have to reach out and try to make a difference in the world. The Chasidic writings compare this to a wealthy person who needs to warm himself in the winter. He could build a fire, in which case everyone in the room would benefit. But imagine instead that he warms only himself with a heavy coat and blankets. In both cases he's warmed; the only question is to what degree he's concerned about others.

Even if we aren't willing to fix things out of altruistic love for others, then at least we should do so for ourselves. Because the reality is that no matter how hard we try, some "bad" does seep in. And in the end it will get us as well.

It's like the story of two guys on a boat, and one of them is drilling a hole in the bottom. "What are you doing?!" his friend shouts. "Oh, don't worry," replies the other, "I'm only drilling under my OWN seat."

The hole in the ozone layer does not discriminate. Drugs and theft and violence have no boundaries. Ignoring this reality was Noah's tragic mistake. He believed that he could lock himself inside the Ark, and escape from it all.

Noah's Painful Lesson

After the Flood ended, Noah re-emerged with his family onto dry land. The Torah records what happened next:

"Noah, the man of the earth, debased himself and planted a vineyard. He became drunk and uncovered himself in his tent. [His son] Cham saw his father's nakedness..." (Genesis 9:20-22)

When Noah emerged from the Ark and saw devastation heaped upon the world, he knew deep down that he had selfishly stood by and watched it all happen. Depressed and disappointed, he got drunk. Then "Cham saw his father's nakedness," meaning that Noah's son either sodomized or castrated him (Talmud — Sanhedrin 70a).

It was a painful lesson for Noah, yet in a sense it was fitting justice. While Noah's generation sexually exploited each other, Noah thought he could ensconce himself in the Ark and escape. But it had penetrated inside.

The Jewish Fight

Every Jew recognizes that all the Jewish people are bound together. When there is a terrorist attack in Israel, we all feel it. The Talmud (Shevuot 39a) says "*Kol Yisrael areivim zeh ba-zeh*" — every Jew is responsible one for another.

I once heard Rabbi Motty Berger of Aish HaTorah speaking to a group of Holocaust survivors. What he said impacted me for the rest of my life. He told them: "When I was a child, I would look at my grandparents and wonder, what were they doing during the Holocaust? The fact that millions of Jews were being placed into ovens was no secret; these horrors were reported regularly on the front page of the New York Times. So I wondered... were my grandparents out raising money to help ransom Jews? Were they organizing secret rescue efforts? Were they demanding media attention and marching on Washington?"

Today, the Jewish people are fighting wars on many fronts. The very existence of the State of Israel is being questioned in world forums. Anti-Semitic acts around the world are mindful of 1938. And there is the cancer of assimilation, where every year, 50,000 Jews between the ages of 20-29 opt out of the Jewish people, lost to us forever.

So what are we going to do about it? Because one day, our own grandchildren will look at us and wonder...

Taking Responsibility

The Kabbalists explain that "*taiva*," the Hebrew word for "ark," also means "word." For they are two sides of the same coin. Each of us wants to build an ARK — the best life possible for ourselves and our family. Yet at the same time we are obligated to use the power of WORDS to reach out and influence others. Noah was given 120 years to build his "*taiva*." So too, we are given 120 years — a full lifetime — to do the same.

What can we do? We can speak out against garbage in our rivers and garbage on TV. We can attend a Torah class and teach over what we've learned to others. We can understand clearly why humanity must refuse to tolerate gossip and infidelity. We can organize a community campaign to demand objectivity in the media.

Noah's failure to try and influence his generation is why the Flood is called "the waters of Noah" (Isaiah 54:9). Don't think the problem isn't affecting you. Because it is.

Let's commit to taking responsibility — for ourselves, our family, our community, our world.

**Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Shraga Simmons**

This article can also be read at: <http://www.aish.com/tp/b/sw/48971156.html>

Like what you read? As a non-profit organization, Aish.com relies on readers like you to enable us to provide meaningful and relevant articles. Join Aish.com and help us continue to give daily inspiration to people like you around the world.

The Facts of Bullying

- Bullying is something someone says or does with the intent to gain power over or to dominate another person
- Every seven minutes a child is bullied on a school yard
- A child is being bullied when he/she is exposed, repeatedly to *negative actions* on the part of one or more other children
- *negative actions* can be carried out verbally, physically and through non-verbal communication – but are always carried out with the intention to inflict, injure or discomfort the other person
- Bullying can be carried out by a single person or a group
- In bullying situations there is an imbalance of strength (physical and/or psychological)
- The bully is always in a position of power over the victim(s)
- Direct Bullying – direct open attacks on a victim
- Indirect Bullying – social isolation and exclusion from a group
- Studies suggest that one student out of every seven are involved in bully/victim problems on more than an occasional basis
- Studies suggest that bullying decreases as children get older
- Peers are present in 85% of bullying episodes but only intervene in 19% of these episodes
- 57% of interventions were effective in stopping bullying within 10 seconds
- Children bully to gain power, to be cool, because of peer pressure, anger and frustration
- Bullying can be a learned behaviour
- Bullying crosses social class, gender, and ethnic boundaries
- Both boys and girls bully: boys are more likely to use direct bullying and girls more likely to use indirect bullying
- Boys carry much of the bullying that girls are subjected to
- The greater the amount of adult supervision, the lower the level of bully/victim problems – 9 out of 10 bullying incidences are not seen by adults
- Typically, bullying victims are more anxious and insecure than other children; they are often cautious, sensitive and quiet. Victims suffer from low self-esteem. Male victims are often physically weaker than their peers.
- Bullies are often aggressive towards adults as well as their peers. They generally have a very positive view of themselves, a positive attitude towards violence and are often characterized by impulsivity and a strong need to dominate.
- Passive bullies are those who participate in bullying but do not usually take the initiative.
- Bullies are generally popular among their peers
- Bullies do come in all sizes and can intimidate victims who are physically larger if there is an imbalance of power
- Bullies lack compassion and empathy for their victim
- Victims cannot solve bullying problems themselves due to the power imbalance in the bully/victim relationship
- Children with special needs may be at greater risk of being bullied due to their disability, lack of social integration, or behaviours. Having a disability is not the main reason children are bullied
- Cyber-bullying follows the victim off the playground into the home
- 25% of Canadian children claim they have been emailed with hateful content about someone
- Anonymity makes cyber-bullying a “consequence free” and faceless form of bullying
- 44% of Canadian children have email accounts their parents do not know about
- 56% of children 9-17 years old used instant messaging in 2001

Taken from:
Dr. Debra Peplar, Lamarsh Centre for Research
Dan Olweus, *Bullying at School*, 2002
Joanne Kates, Director, Camp Arouahon
Joey Rich, *Cyber-Bullying Fact Sheet*

Jewish References for an Anti-Bullying Program

Mitzvot and Middot

Mitzvot and Middot are integral to being not only a good Jew but a good person. There are many which can be referenced in an anti-bullying program for a Jewish educational environment. These pertain both to the bully and the bystander. The following are just a few examples. For more information on these, please see "Teaching Jewish Virtues" by Susan Freeman (ARE Publishing, 1999) and "Teaching Mitzvot" by Barbara Binder Kadden and Bruce Kadden (ARE Publishing, 2003).

LaShon Hora – Not Gossiping

Hachnasat Orchim – Welcoming the Stranger

Lo Ta'amod al Dam Rayecha – Not Standing Idly By

Vahavta L'rayacha Kamocha – Loving One's Neighbour

Emet – Truthfulness

Lo Levayesh – Not Embarassing

Ohev/Hechabayd Zeh et Zeh – Loving and Honouring Others

Shalom Bayit – Peace in the Home/Family

Text References

Hatred of one's fellow human beings will ruin a person's life.

-Rabbi Yehoshua, Pirke Avot 2:6

All Israel are responsible for one another.

One who shames another in public is as one who sheds blood.

-Baba Metzia 58a

Do not judge your fellow human being until you stand in his place.

-Hillel, Pirke Avot 2:5

Where there are no worthy persons, strive to be a worthy person.

-Hillel, Pirke Avot 2:6

Teshuvah according to Maimonides:

When the opportunity presents itself for repeating an offence once committed, an offender, while able to commit the offense, refrains from doing it because he is penitent and not out of fear of failure or vigor.

Do not stand idly by while your neighbor's blood is shed.

-Leviticus 19:16

When a person is brought to final judgements, he or she will be asked...did you expect the positive outcome of things?

-Rava, Shabbat 31a

All Israel are responsible for one another. With what may that responsibility be compared? With a ship in which one compartment has split apart. Of something like this, it is not said, "A compartment in the ship has split apart," What people say is "The entire ship – the whole thing – split apart."

-Seder Eliyahu Rabah

And when his (Joseph) brothers saw that it was he whom his father loved more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably unto him."

-Genesis, 37:4

A child's character education should take priority over his academic education. All educational efforts are basically meaningless unless they build on the solid foundation of good character.

-The Lubavitcher Rebbe

If I am not for myself, who is for me? And if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?

-Pirke Avot, 1:14

Pop Quiz

Questions on Bullying Issues

Answer key on page 2.

How would you respond?

How many students in the U.S. miss school each day to avoid being bullied?

- A. 40,000
- B. 80,000
- C. 160,000
- D. 240,000

What percentage of kids that bully will have a criminal record by the time they are 30?

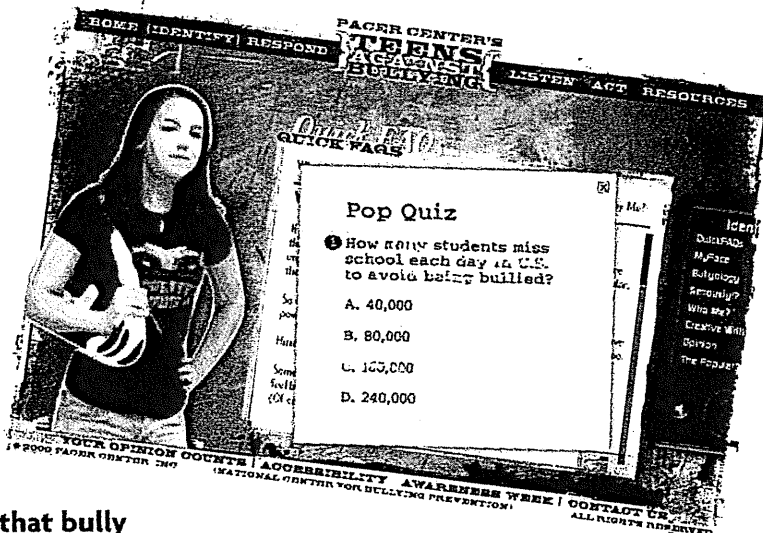
- A. 15%
- B. 25%
- C. 35%
- D. 45%

How many out of every 10 American teenagers witness bullying at least once a day?

- A. 1 out of 10
- B. 3 out of 10
- C. 6 out of 10
- D. 8 out of 10

How many students report experiencing bullying during a school year?

- A. 10%
- B. 33%
- C. 50
- D. 65%



This information may be reproduced for free in your publication or on your Web site with the following credit:

©2009 PACER Center.
Reprinted with permission.

For more information on bullying prevention, contact PACER Center at 952.838.9000 or 888.248.0822 (national toll free).

PACER CENTER
CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

8161 Normandale Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55437-1044
952.838.9000
952.838.0190 TTY
952.838.0199 fax
PACER@PACER.org

PACER.org

Pop Quiz— PACERTeensAgainstBullying.org/IDENTIFY/Pop Quiz

©2009 PACER Center, Inc.

PACERTeensAgainstBullying.org | PACERKidsAgainstBullying.org | PACER.org/bullying

Bullyology

Characteristics of Teens Who Bully and Who Are Targeted

Assignment*:

Review each term and decide if it belongs to a person who bullies or a person targeted by bullying.

Place an X in either the "Person Who Bullies" or "Target of Bullying" column.

*Answer key on pages 3-5.



This information may be reproduced for free in your publication or on your Web site with the following credit:

©2009 PACER Center.
Reprinted with permission.

For more information on bullying prevention, contact PACER Center at 952.838.9000 or 888.248.0822 (national toll free).

PACER CENTER
CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

8161 Normandale Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55437-1044
952.838.9000
952.838.0190 TTY
952.838.0199 fax
PACER@PACER.org

PACER.org

Terminology	The "Translation"	Person Who Bullies	Target of Bullying
Aggressivus exhibitus	Acts Aggressive		
Conflictus Avoidus	Avoids Conflict		
Upsetius Reactus	Becomes Upset		
Readus Skills Socialium	Reads Social Skills		
Deservus Bullius	Thinks Others Have it Coming		
Pushius Overus	Easily Pushed Around		
Attentionius Seekus	Wants Attention		
Feelingus Lackingus	Seems Heartless		

Bullyology— PACERTeensAgainstBullying.org/IDENTIFY/Bullyology

©2009 PACER Center, Inc.

PACERTeensAgainstBullying.org | PACERKidsAgainstBullying.org | PACER.org/bullying

This information may be reproduced for free in your publication or on your Web site with the following credit:

©2009 PACER Center.
Reprinted with permission.

For more information on bullying prevention, contact PACER Center at 952.838.9000 or 888.248.0822 (national toll free).

PACER CENTER
CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

8161 Normandale Blvd
Minneapolis, MN 55437-1044
952.838.9000
952.838.0190 TTY
952.838.0199 fax
PACER@PACER.org

PACER.org

Bullyology (con't)

Characteristics of Teens Who Bully and Who Are Targeted

Terminology	The "Translation"	Person Who Bullies	Target of Bullying
Shyus Quietium	Shy, Quiet or Withdrawn		
Speciallis Believeum	Thinks He or She is All That		
Friendus Lackus	Haw Few Friends		
Markus Easius	Looks Weak		
Coolium Popularis	Seems cool or popular		
Powerius Controlium	Has power and control		
Worrius Nervousum	Feels Nervous, Worried		
Self Esteemius Lackus	Thinks He or She Deserves What Happens		

Answer key on pages 3 - 5.

Bullyology— PACERTeensAgainstBullying.org/IDENTIFY/Bullyology

©2009 PACER Center, Inc.

PACERTeensAgainstBullying.org | PACERKidsAgainstBullying.org | PACER.org/bullying

Bullyology (Answer Key)

This information may be reproduced for free in your publication or on your Web site with the following credit:

©2009 PACER Center.
 Reprinted with permission.

For more information on bullying prevention, contact PACER Center at 952.838.9000 or 888.248.0822 (national toll free).

PACER CENTER
 CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

8161 Normandale Blvd.
 Minneapolis, MN 55437-1044
 952.838.9000
 952.838.0190 TTY
 952.838.0199 fax
 PACER@PACER.org

PACER.org

Terminology	The "Translation"	Person Who Bullies	Target of Bullying
Aggressivus exhibitus	Acts Aggressive	X	
Conflictus Avoidus	Avoids Conflict		X
Upsetius Reactus	Becomes Upset		X
Readus Skills Socialium	Reads Social Skills	X	
Deservus Bullius	Thinks Others Have it Coming	X	
Pushius Overus	Easily Pushed Around		X
Attentionius Seekus	Wants Attention	X	
Feelingus Lackingus	Seems Heartless	X	
Shyius Quietium	Shy, Quiet or Withdrawn		X
Speciallis Believeum	Thinks He or She is All That	X	
Friendus Lackus	Has Few Friends		X
Markus Easius	Looks Weak		X
Coolium Popularis	Seems cool or popular	X	
Powerius Controlium	Has power and control	X	
Worrius Nervousum	Feels Nervous, Worried		X
Self Esteemius Lackus	Thinks He or She Deserves What Happens		X

Bullyology— PACERTeensAgainstBullying.org/IDENTIFY/Bullyology

©2009 PACER Center, Inc.

PACERTeensAgainstBullying.org | PACERKidsAgainstBullying.org | PACER.org/bullying

Bullyology (Answer Key, con't)

Aggressivus exhibitus (Acts Aggressive)

Person Who Bullies

Kids who bully can be physically pushy and react to situations with anger. Kids who are targets of bullying aren't usually aggressive. They tend to "take it" rather than "dish it out."

Conflictus Avoidus (Avoids Conflict)

Target of Bullying

Teens who bully actually can like conflict. Targets usually don't want conflict or confrontations. Many are prepared to respond assertively.

Upsetius Reactus (Becomes upset)

Target of Bullying

Kids who bully are looking for targets who will cry, get angry or get upset. Target often cry, act scared, or get angry—exactly what the bullying is hoping for. Even though they don't deserve to be bullied, their reactions can invite more bullying.

Readus Skills Socialium (Reads Social Cues)

Person Who Bullies

The looks, the body language, the tone of voice—they're all social cues. Bullies use their ability to read those signs to control situations. Kids who get bullied often don't know how to read people's looks, body language, tone of voice, and other social cues.

Deservus Bullius (Thinks others have it coming)

Person Who Bullies

Believe it or not, bullies actually think people who look or act different deserve to be hurt. They don't even feel sorry about it. Targets know that no one deserves to be bullied.

Pushius Overus (Easily Pushed Around)

Target of Bullying

Not likely. Bullies are the ones who do the pushing around. Kids who can be easily overpowered and controlled are often bullied.

Attentionius Seekus (Wants Attention)

Person Who Bullies

What better way to get noticed than to bully someone? Well, there are lots of ways—but not to a bully. Targets might want attention—especially from someone who can help them. But they don't bully to get noticed.

Feelingus Lackingus (Seems Heartless)

Person Who Bullies

So true. Bullies often enjoy making someone scared, upset or angry. They're not exactly famous for caring about other people's feelings. Sometimes kids who are targeted by bullies might seem like they don't care—but it's probably more because they're scared and don't know what to do.

Bullyology— PACERTeensAgainstBullying.org/IDENTIFY/Bullyology

©2009 PACER Center, Inc.

PACERTeensAgainstBullying.org | PACERKidsAgainstBullying.org | PACER.org/bullying

This information may be reproduced for free in your publication or on your Web site with the following credit:

©2009 PACER Center.
Reprinted with permission.

For more information on bullying prevention, contact PACER Center at
952.838.9000
or **888.248.0822**
(national toll free).

PACER CENTER
CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

8161 Normandale Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55437-1044
952.838.9000
952.838.0190 TTY
952.838.0199 fax
PACER@PACER.org

PACER.org

This information may be reproduced for free in your publication or on your Web site with the following credit:

©2009 PACER Center.
Reprinted with permission.

For more information on bullying prevention, contact PACER Center at 952.838.9000 or 888.248.0822 (national toll free).

PACER CENTER
CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

8161 Normandale Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55437-1044
952.838.9000
952.838.0190 TTY
952.838.0199 fax
PACER@PACER.org

PACER.org

Bullyology (Answer Key, con't)

Shyus Quietium (Shy, quiet or withdrawn)

Target of Bullying

Students who bully aren't the shy type. They like being bold and getting noticed and think shy, quiet kids can be overpowered and won't defend themselves.

Speciallis Believeum (Thinks he or she is all that)

Person Who Bullies

Many kids who bully are self confident and think they are above the rules. They sometimes even convince adults that what they're doing is okay. Targets often lack self confidence and the ability to make others see things their way.

Friendus Lackus (Has few friends)

Target of Bullying

Bullies often are popular and have lots of friends (although some of those "friends" are just afraid of them). Kids who don't have friends make easy marks. There's no one to help them—and bullies know it.

Markus Easius (Looks weak)

Target of Bullying

Bullies don't look weak, but they sure like to pick on others who do. To them, kids who are not assertive and who aren't likely to tell others if they get bullied are "weak." Bullies love it when a kid isn't assertive or likely to tell. They think these kids are an easy mark.

Coolium Popularius (Seems cool or popular)

Person Who Bullies

Some kids use their social status to manipulate others into following them. Bu you know what? Their "friends" often are afraid of them. Many teens who are bullied don't have a lot of friends.

Powerius Controlium (Has power and control)

Person Who Bullies

Bullies like to feel in charge, they manipulate, scare and intimidate others to "prove" they're powerful. Kids who are bullied don't have much power or control over others.

Worrius Nervousum (Feels nervous, worried)

Target of Bullying

Teens who bully often feel confident, not worried. You'd feel nervous, too, if someone was picking on you and you didn't know how to stop it.

Self Esteemius Lackus (Thinks he or she deserves what happens)

Target of Bullying

Bullies don't think anything bad should happen to them, but they sure think others deserve what they get. Teens with low self esteems or who feel they can't handle the situation sometimes feel like they deserve to be bullied.

Bullyology— PACERTeensAgainstBullying.org/IDENTIFY/Bullyology

©2009 PACER Center, Inc.

PACERTeensAgainstBullying.org | PACERKidsAgainstBullying.org | PACER.org/bullying

Seriously!?

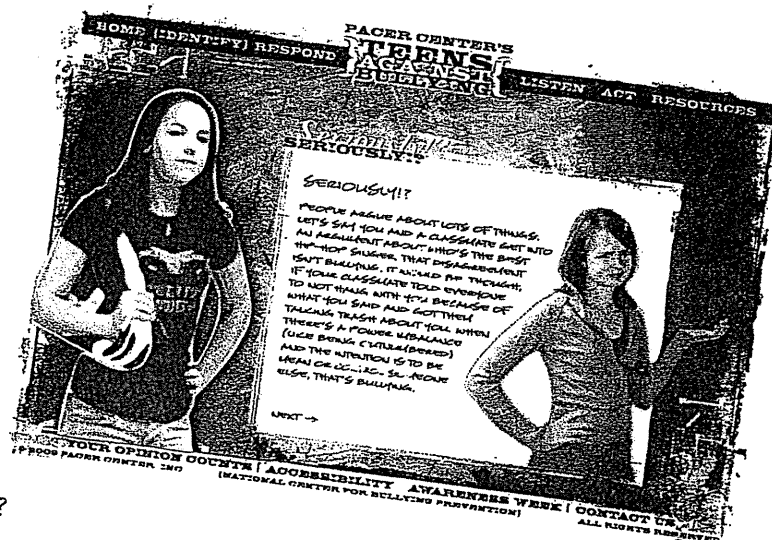
Stigmas Attached to Bullying

How would you respond to each statement?

Serious. As in so true, for real, definitely.

Seriously!? Meaning no way, not happening, are you kidding me?

*Answer key is on page 2.



This information may be reproduced for free in your publication or on your Web site with the following credit:

©2009 PACER Center.
Reprinted with permission.

For more information on bullying prevention, contact PACER Center at
952.838.9000
or 888.248.0822
(national toll free).

PACER CENTER
CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

8161 Normandale Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55437-1044
952.838.9000
952.838.0190 TTY
952.838.0199 fax
PACER@PACER.org

PACER.org

1. Bullying is the same as arguing. *Serious | Seriously!?*
2. Bullying only happens in middle school. *Serious | Seriously!?*
3. Bullies come in all shapes and sizes. *Serious | Seriously!?*
4. Calling someone "gay" or "retard" is funny. *Serious | Seriously!?*
5. Bullying can happen online and even by cell phone. *Serious | Seriously!?*
6. Bullying is just for boys. *Serious | Seriously!?*
7. Words will never hurt you *Serious | Seriously!?*
8. If you see bullying, you can help stop it. *Serious | Seriously!?*
9. Bullying makes you tougher. *Serious | Seriously!?*
10. Kids who are being bullied may not want to tell anyone, especially an adult.
Serious | Seriously!?
11. Some people deserve to be bullied. *Serious | Seriously!?*
12. Telling an adult about bullying is tattling. *Serious | Seriously!?*
13. Bullying is just a normal part of growing up. *Serious | Seriously!?*
14. Bullying is about wanting power. *Serious | Seriously!?*
15. If you ignore bullying, it will go away. *Serious | Seriously!?*
16. You should fight back. *Serious | Seriously!?*
17. Students who are bullied should just learn to deal with it. *Serious | Seriously!?*

Seriously!?— PACERTeensAgainstBullying.org/RESPOND/Seriously!?

©2009 PACER Center, Inc.

PACERTeensAgainstBullying.org | PACERKidsAgainstBullying.org | PACER.org/bullying

This information may be reproduced for free in your publication or on your Web site with the following credit:

©2009 PACER Center.
Reprinted with permission.

For more information on bullying prevention, contact PACER Center at 952.838.9000 or 888.248.0822 (national toll free).

PACER CENTER
CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

8161 Normandale Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55437-1044
952.838.9000
952.838.0190 TTY
952.838.0199 fax
PACER@PACER.org

PACER.org

1. Bullying is the same as arguing. Seriously!?

People argue about lots of things. Let's say you and a classmate get into an argument about who's the best hip-hop singer. That disagreement isn't bullying. It would be, though, if your classmate told everyone to not hang with you because of what you said and got them talking trash about you. When there's a power imbalance (like being outnumbered) and the intention is to be mean or control someone else, that's bullying.

2. Bullying only happens in middle school. Seriously!?

Kids can bully even before they leave the sandbox, calling others names, leaving someone out on purpose, or making fun of others. It can start early, and it's at its worst in middle school.

3. Bullies come in all shapes and sizes. Serious.

It's not like the movies, where the bully is a big, tough-looking kid who wears all black and grunts a lot. It can be quiet girls and scrawny boys. Bullies can be popular, unpopular, tall, short, rich, poor, or anything else. The only way to tell who might be a bully is by how they act, not by how they look.

4. Calling someone "gay" or "retard" is funny. Seriously!?

Think about it. If you use "gay" to mean something that isn't cool, it's like saying that people who are gay aren't cool. If you call people "retard" when they do something you think is dumb, that's a slam against people with developmental disabilities. Interesting way to look at it, isn't it.

5. Bullying can happen online and even by cell phone. Serious.

It's called cyberbullying, and it includes things like sending mean e-mails or texts, posting gossip or embarrassing pictures on My Space or Facebook, and putting cruel videos on YouTube. Because cyberbullying is out there for the whole world to see, it can be particularly devastating. You know what makes it even worse? Sometimes it's done anonymously, so you don't even know who's trying to hurt you. Nasty stuff!

6. Bullying is just for boys. Seriously!?

Girls can and do bully. While boys tend to bully physically, girls often use verbal and social bullying, such as gossip and leaving people out.

7. Words will never hurt you. Seriously!?

Yeah, you have heard this one before. People used to think bullying was just physical. Now we know better. Even though words don't leave bruises or broken bones, they can hurt as much as a beating.

8. If you see bullying, you can help stop it. Serious.

Most teens who see bullying want to help put an end to it. How? Speak out, stand together, tell. You can always do something, either directly or indirectly—even if you're afraid. No

Seriously!?— PACERTeensAgainstBullying.org/RESPOND/Seriously!?

©2009 PACER Center, Inc.

PACERTeensAgainstBullying.org | PACERKidsAgainstBullying.org | PACER.org/bullying

This information may be reproduced for free in your publication or on your Web site with the following credit:

©2009 PACER Center.
Reprinted with permission.

For more information on bullying prevention, contact PACER Center at
952.838.9000
or **888.248.0822**
(national toll free).

PACER CENTER
CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

3161 Normandale Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55437-1044
952.838.9000
952.838.0192 TTY
952.838.0199 fax
PACER@PACER.org

PACER.org

one should have to deal with bullying alone.

9. Bullying makes you tougher. Seriously!?

Tougher? Maybe on another planet.. Fact is, bullying makes you feel scared, worried, and down on yourself.

10. Kids who are being bullied may not want to tell anyone, especially an adult. Serious.

You know it. Why don't kids want to tell? For starters, they might be embarrassed that they're a target. Lots of kids worry that the bully might try and get even. And telling adults can be a mixed bag. Some might not take the teen seriously. Others might overreact, avoid dealing with it, or not know what to do.

11. Some people deserve to be bullied. Seriously!?

The way people act or look is never a reason to bully them. Everyone deserves to be treated with respect and consideration.

12. Telling an adult about bullying is tattling. Seriously!?

Tattling means sharing petty secrets or information about someone, usually to cause trouble. Telling means reporting a harmful or dangerous situation to an adult to help protect someone. If you don't tell, who are you protecting? Not telling only protects people who are doing something that they shouldn't be.

13. Bullying is just a normal part of growing up. Seriously!?

Normal? Getting beat up, being left out of social situations, getting made fun of or gossiped about is normal? It's not.

14. Bullying is about wanting power. Serious.

Kids who bully love to have power, and they use it on purpose to intimidate, hurt, or harass others. They especially love it when their target gets upset, angry, scared, or sad. That reaction makes them feel even more powerful. (So don't give it to them!)

15. If you ignore bullying, it will go away. Seriously!?

Sometimes ignoring bullying can work, especially if you do it with confidence, but usually it's better to address the issue. Parents or other trusted adults can help.

16. You should fight back. Seriously!?

They push you, you shove back, they push you harder...where does it end? Reacting with anger and violence often is just the response bullies want, and it usually makes the situation worse.

17. Students who are bullied should just learn to deal with it. Seriously!?

No one deserves to be bullied. Someone who is bullied should not be alone.

However you wanna say it, bullying is a serious issue. That's a fact, true, for sure and definitely.

Seriously!?— PACERTeensAgainstBullying.org/RESPOND/Seriously!?

©2009 PACER Center, Inc.

PACERTeensAgainstBullying.org | PACERKidsAgainstBullying.org | PACER.org/bullying