



WALNUT STREET THEATRE



TOURING OUTREACH COMPANY STUDY GUIDE

Mean Girlz R Bullies Too

Written By Tom Quinn

SHOW SYNOPSIS

It's not easy being the new kid, navigating everything from the social cliques to the lunchroom line. Sometimes, middle school is just hard. And sometimes, teenagers are just mean. The most-requested piece of last season, this all-new musical about jocks, brains, queen bees, and wannabes focuses on the realities of adolescence—gossip, body image, the nature of popularity, and the challenges of being different. Join us for a powerful show that explores the secret culture of teenage aggression and asks: why are teenagers mean to each other and what can we do about it?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Questions for Before the Show

- What are you expecting from a show called *Mean Girlz R Bullies Too*?
- How does it feel to be somewhere new where you don't know a lot of people?
- Think about a time where you felt as if you were being bullied. Write about how that experience made you feel.
- Have you ever been afraid to be yourself because you didn't think people would like you?
- Think about a time when you witnessed someone being bullied. Brainstorm some ways you could have intervened to help the situation.

Questions for After the Show

- Imagine that you've transferred to a new school. What would be more important to you: making new friends or being yourself?
- Do you know people who act the same way the "puppets" do in the show? On a piece of paper, write three pieces of advice you would have for somebody in that position.
- If you were in Ellen's position, how would you have responded to the attention (both positive and negative) that she received from both Chad and Morgan?
- Why do you think Ellen chose to change the way she dressed at one point in the play?
- Why is the image of a swan significant?

BULLY VOCABULARY

BULLY SOMEONE WHO INFLICTS UNWANTED, AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR AMONGST PEERS THAT INVOLVES A REAL OR PERCEIVED POWER IMBALANCE. THE BEHAVIOR IS REPEATED, OR HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE REPEATED, OVER TIME.

VICTIM SOMEONE WHO SUFFERS THE CONSEQUENCES OF BULLYING.

BYSTANDER A WITNESS OF THE ACT OF BULLYING. BYSTANDERS MUST CHOSE TO HELP THE VICTIM, THE BULLY, OR REMAIN SILENT.

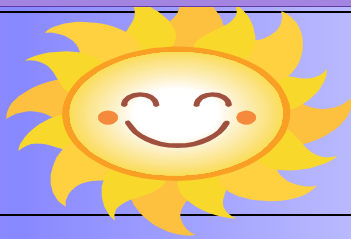
TYPES OF BULLYING

PHYSICAL KICKING, HITTING, TAKING AND DAMAGING BELONGINGS

VERBAL NAME CALLING, TAUNTING, THREATS, MAKING OFFENSIVE REMARKS

INDIRECT SPREADING NASTY STORIES ABOUT SOMEONE, GOSSIP, EXCLUDING PEOPLE FROM SOCIAL GROUPS

CYBER: SENDING NASTY/THREATENING TEXTS, EMAILS, HARASSING PHONE CALLS, PICTURES, FACEBOOK POSTS, SNAP CHATS, TWEETS, OR INSTANT MESSAGES.



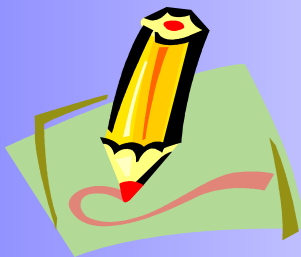
“Have You Ever...”

Here is a simple activity with the goal of exploring similarities and differences between students in the classroom. Have all the students sit in a circle. Give every student a chair except for the student who is “IT”, standing in the center. The student in the center will ask a “have you ever...” question to the rest of the class that is true for themselves (i.e. “have you ever been to the Franklin Institute?” or “have you ever eaten wonton soup?”). Anyone whose answer is “yes” must get up out of their chair and move to an empty chair in the circle as quickly as possible. The student who asked the question should also try and find a seat.

There will always be one student without a chair who will move to the center of the circle and become the new “IT”. This is a fun way to learn more about your classmates’ past experiences and to work on your reflexes at the same time!

10 Things I Think about ME

Have your students cut or rip a piece of paper into ten strips. On each strip have them write a word or a phrase that describes them. **No one is allowed to see another student’s ten strips.** Then tell your students to arrange the strips in order from what they most like about themselves to what they least like. Ask your students if they like what they see. Now ask them to give up one strip. Ask them how that makes them feel to lose that personal quality. Now ask them to give up another strip. Then ask them to give up three more traits. Ask your students: “*Ok, now that you’ve given up five strips, what kind of person are you?*” Next, give your students the opportunity to regain only two of the five traits they gave up. After the activity, have your students write a short paragraph about what traits they kept and what they learned about themselves from the experience.



The Book of US

This activity builds self-esteem in students and helps them to identify similarities and differences with their peers. Hand out a blank piece of construction paper to every student. Have them write their name at the top of the page. After they have titled their pages, tell your students that this page (the front and back) is their page and is meant to reflect them. Good prompts can be: *What is your family like? What communities do you belong to? Who are your friends? What are your likes and dislikes? What are you proud of? What goals do you have for this year?*

Students can make drawings, cut pictures out of magazines to create collages, and write brief paragraphs about themselves. When they are done, staple the pages together or put them into a binder to make a book. Also, make an eye-catching cover that says The Book of US. After the book has been finished, gather the students into a group circle and show everyone’s page to the class. Point out the similarities between students, but also point out how some pages are different and stress the value of those differences.

Celebrate The Positive

Form a big circle with one student in the center. Have all the students in the group, one by one, say one positive thing they think about the person in the middle. Encourage comments that focus on personality and behavior rather than physical characteristics, and every comment must be positive. Continue this activity until all students have had a chance to stand in the center. Also, you can have one student be the recorder of the activity. He or she can hand out the separate lists of compliments to each student at the end of the activity or post them on the bulletin board of your room.



Whisper Down the Lane

Play this fun game with your students to teach them about the dangers of gossip and rumors in your school. Have your students line up so that they can whisper to their immediate neighbors but not hear any players further away. The first person at the end of the line thinks of a message and whispers it as quietly as possible to his or her neighbor. This message can be whispered only **one time** to a new person. The neighbor should then pass on the phrase to the next person in line *to the best of their ability*. This continues until the phrase reaches the student on the other end of the line. At this time, the last student can call out the phrase they just heard. The final message should bear little or no resemblance to the original. At the end of the activity, have a discussion with your students: *What do you think this game teaches us about rumors? Does spreading rumors make you a bully or a bystander? Should we always believe all we hear about our peers? If not, why do we spread rumors instead of stopping them in their tracks?*

Cross the Room if...

Line up all the students on one side of the room. If they agree with the statement, they should walk across to the other side of the room; if they do not agree they should stay where they are. Start by making simple statements (*All Americans should exercise; Everyone should learn a second language; School should be seven days a week, etc.*) and progress to statements concerning cliques and popularity (*I worry about what my friends think when I make a decision; I hang out with people who are like myself; I want to know more about my classmates, etc.*).

To end the activity, have a discussion with your students: *When the teacher said a statement, did you take a peek at what your friends were going to do? Why or why not? What did you think about people who crossed the room? Did you see your friends on the other side of the room? If so, how did that make you feel?*

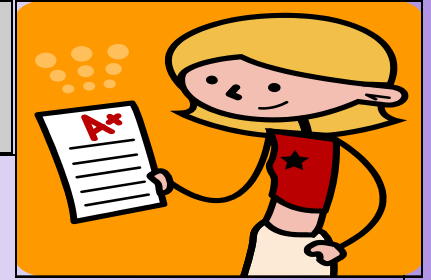


Trashing Bullies

In this activity, your students will investigate why bullying takes place. Discuss Morgan and the reasons why she bullies Ellen. Talk about how sometimes there are things that people don't like about each other. Also discuss how someone's life at home can make them behave a certain way at school. Individually, have your students write or draw why someone might bully. Tell your students that their responses are private and for their eyes only, but that they should be honest in their examination of why and how bullying can happen. When your students have finished, ask them to fold up their papers and throw them away in the trash can one by one. Explain that this "throwing away ceremony" symbolizes the trashing of bullying behavior. Discuss the activity and what new insights your students learned.



Anti-Bullying Quiz



Test Your Bullying Knowledge! Circle the Correct Answer!

1. Two Girls from Jenny's class made a fake Facebook page and put Jenny's face on it. They also created a really mean profile about her that was totally untrue! This is an example of what type of bullying:

- A. Cyber B. Verbal C. Indirect D. Both A & C

2. According to one study, ____% of 4th through 8th graders reported being victims of bullying.

- A. 20 B. 90 C. 60 D. 50

3. One in ____ students who drop out of school do so because of repeated bullying.

- A. 10 B. 30 C. 100 D. 50

Photo Scene!

With a group, choose one of the pictures below. Write a story or perform a skit about what you think is happening in the scene!



Walnut Street Theatre Touring Outreach Company 2019-2020



WALNUT STREET THEATRE

BIOGRAPHY



Walnut Street Theatre has the unique distinction of being the oldest, continuously operating theatre in the English-speaking world, having served Philadelphia audiences for over 210 years! Due to the direction of Producing Artistic Director Bernard Havard, Walnut Street Theatre has been a self-producing, non-profit theatre company for over 30 seasons. Walnut Street Theatre continues to entertain and enlighten diverse audiences with high quality theatrical programming. With more than 50,000 subscribers, the Walnut is also the most-subscribed theatre company in the world! Each season, Walnut Street Theatre holds a nation-wide search to recruit accomplished young professionals for Acting Apprenticeships. These actors form our Touring Outreach Company. Nearly 500 candidates are considered each year for these four positions. Last

season, **172,000** children and adults were impacted by the Walnut's Education Programs, including our theatre school with classes for kids and adults, Camp Walnut, Our Touring Outreach Program to local schools, and our artist-in-residency programs.

WALNUT STREET THEATRE EDUCATION STAFF

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION	TJ Sokso
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION	Amanda Pasquini
EDUCATION PROGRAMS ASSOCIATE	Nate Golden
RESIDENT TEACHING ARTIST	Ali Walker
EDUCATION APPRENTICE	Quanece Thompson
ACTING APPRENTICES	Sam Paley
	Andrew Mullin
	Oliver Feaster
	Jasonica Moore

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- WEB**
- **Bully Prevention**
www.stopbullying.gov
 - **Additional Bullying Statistics**
<http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org>
 - **Educational Drama Activities**
<http://plays.about.com/od/activities/>
 - **Walnut Street Theatre Touring Outreach Company**
<https://www.walnutstreettheatre.org/education/outreach.php>

CREATIVE TEAM

<i>Playwright</i>	Tom Quinn
<i>Director</i>	Marissa Barnathan
<i>Music Director</i>	Morgan Sichler
<i>Scenic Director</i>	Nate Golden

TOURING OUTREACH SPONSORS



THANK YOU

The Walnut Street Theatre Education Department gratefully acknowledges the support from the following:

Bazon, Less and Feldman, P.C. * Louis N. Cassett Foundation * Connelly Foundation * The Peter & Audrey Denton Fund * Dow Chemical Company * Electronic Theatre Controls * Elliot-Lewis Corporation * William Goldman Foundation * Hamilton Family Foundation * Hassel Foundation * Haverford Trust Company * Hellendall Family Foundation * Herman Goldner Company * Syde Hurdus Foundation * William Penn Foundation * Virginia and Harvey Kimmel Arts Education Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation * Liberty Property Trust * Lincoln Financial Group Foundation * National Endowment for the Arts * PECO * Truist * United Way of Bucks County, Cumberland County, Capital Region, Delaware, Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey, Greater Portland, and Tri-State * Universal Health Services *

Walnut Street Theatre Educational Opportunities!

WALNUT STREET THEATRE TOURING OUTREACH

Bring a show to your school!

Bob the Bully Buster Grades K-5
Mean Girlz R Grades 5-8
Cinderella Eats Rice and Beans Grades Pre K-5
No Easy Road to Freedom Grades 6-12

*Open a dialogue with students about issues
that affect them!*

Call 215-574-3550 , ext. 584

Walnut Street Theatre for Kids

Bring your kids to Walnut Street Theatre!

Disney's The Little Mermaid Jr.
Grace for President
Junie B. Jones: The Musical
Nate the Great

Tickets just \$11-\$13!

Read the books, then see the stories LIVE!

Call 215-574-3550

2019-2020
SEASON



The Theatre School at **WALNUT STREET THEATRE**

Classes for kids, students, and adults!

For students from 2 to 102! Great for networking,
providing a creative outlet, and professional
training.

Find your inner star at the Walnut!

Call 215-574-3550, ext. 510

RESIDENCY PROGRAM

*Let us design a dramatic and
educational program for your school!*

We support teacher's objectives with
personalized programs that meet your needs
and budget.

Call 215-574-3550, ext. 584