

19

Reporting a bullying incident at school



Level:



Let's think!

1. Do you think that bullying is a serious issue? Why?
2. What do you think should be done to address and prevent bullying in schools?

PLAYLIST



READ ALONG



Headway Secondary School

Witness Statement

I, Katrina Tsang, of Class 2B, state:

1 On 16 December 20XX at about 4:30pm, I witnessed a situation involving Amanda Lee and Nancy Yeung outside the storeroom.

2 My classmates and I stayed around after school that day to help set up booths for the upcoming Christmas fun fair. While I was heading to the storeroom to get more Christmas decorations, I saw Amanda and Nancy standing face to face in the empty corridor outside the room.

3 Nancy had a hurt look on her face when Amanda confronted her, and Amanda, in a fit of anger, shoved her against the wall. I was taken aback by the situation and did not dare to get involved, so I quickly tiptoed to the fire exit nearby. Amanda then raised her voice and said, 'Nancy, that was a pathetic performance! You cost us the game.' Nancy slid down the wall and started to weep. After watching Nancy squirm for a while, Amanda ordered her to go into the storeroom and then locked the door. I heard Nancy's desperate pleas to be let out of the room. Amanda said, 'Now shut up and reflect on your mistake. Being alone there will help you understand the importance of stepping up!'

4 After some time, Amanda unlocked the door. Nancy crawled out in silence with tears streaming down her face, while I watched from a distance. She was trembling uncontrollably and trying to cover her face with both of her hands. Seeing this, Amanda began to take photos of Nancy. 'I think that it's only fair that you pay me back for the damage you caused. Bring me the money tomorrow if you don't want others to see all these!' Amanda threatened. She then walked away, leaving Nancy there.

5 Amanda is the captain of our volleyball team and she is incredibly talented. Everyone considers her a star student and we have always thought that she was an amicable person. However, her

true self **did** astonish me. She is in fact a manipulative person. Her actions have obviously caused distress to Nancy and this may have long-lasting psychological effects on her. Any form of bullying and harassment should not be tolerated. I suspect that this might not be the first time such an incident has occurred, as Nancy might have been too intimidated to speak up. 25

6 I have made the decision to take action and report this incident because I felt awful for being too afraid to do so at the time. I do hope that by speaking up, we can prevent any further bullying incidents in the future. 30

I confirm that the contents contained in this statement are a true and correct reflection of the incident.

Signed: *Katrina Tsang*

Dated: 19 December 20XX

~440 words



Looking into Grammar

We can use **do** before a main verb in its base form to give emphasis.

✓ However, her true self **did** astonish me.

? Underline a sentence in which 'do' is used before a main verb for emphasis in paragraph 6.

Read the text and answer questions 1–12. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only. (24 marks)

1. Read the text and complete the table below.

Date of the incident	(i) _____ 20XX
Location	(ii) _____
The bully	(iii) _____
The victim	(iv) _____
The witness	(v) _____
Date of the report	(vi) _____ 20XX

2. Why is it important to mention 'Class 2B' (line 2)?

The information helps the school _____.

3. Read paragraphs 2–3. Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- A. Katrina was going to get some materials in the storeroom.
- B. Katrina saw Nancy and Amanda in the corridor.
- C. Katrina stepped in to halt the conflict.
- D. Amanda pushed Nancy.

- A B C D

4. Look for a word or phrase in paragraph 3 which indicates Katrina's surprise and shock.

5. Based on the information in paragraph 3, number the following events in chronological order. Write 1–4 on the spaces provided.

Amanda trapped Nancy inside the storeroom.

Amanda blamed Nancy.

Nancy begged Amanda.

Nancy broke down in tears.

6. Read paragraph 4 and fill in each blank with ONE word. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

6 Before looking for answers in the text, try to determine the parts of speech of each answer.

When Nancy came out, her face was (i) _____ in tears. She was also shaking a lot, as she probably felt (ii) _____ of Amanda. Amanda then (iii) _____ to expose photos of her to other people.

7. According to paragraph 5, which of the following is NOT true?

- A. Most students have a good impression of Amanda.
- B. Katrina felt shocked to learn what Amanda actually is like.
- C. Amanda did not hide what she is really like.
- D. Amanda leads the school team.

A B C D

8. Based on the information in paragraph 5, complete the following sentences by writing ONE word to fill in each blank. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

It is (i) _____ to experience bullying. We should not (ii) _____ bullies, as no student should be (iii) _____ or (iv) _____ at school.

9. Why does Katrina think that ‘this might not be the first time’ (line 27)?

10. Which of the following is NOT likely to be Katrina’s opinion?

- A. ‘I did not feel guilty for not making this statement earlier.’
- B. ‘I don’t wish to see any more similar cases.’
- C. ‘This incident will upset Nancy for a long time to come.’
- D. ‘If I took action when Nancy was threatened, I might get into trouble.’

10 How does Katrina feel about the incident?

A B C D

11. Match each of the following speech bubbles with one of the students in the witness statement. Write the appropriate name under each speech bubble.

This is horrifying. I need to help her.

(i) _____

I’ve made her pay the price for losing the game.

(ii) _____

I wish that no one would see those photographs.

(iii) _____

12. What is the purpose of this witness statement?

- A. to tell an entertaining story to Katrina’s classmates
- B. to explain Katrina’s actions
- C. to highlight the harmful effects of bullying
- D. to provide evidence for teachers to take action

A B C D

Pre-DSE Level Up

Q12: You may guess the purpose of a witness statement by paying attention to some of its special features. What are the details about date and time for? Was the statement written like facts or fiction? Why does Katrina have to confirm that what she says here is true?

Vocabulary

GLOSSARY



A. Complete the story below with the given words. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct.

Adjective: intimidated pathetic

Noun: plea harassment

Phrasal verb: take aback

Verb: dare threaten tiptoe
tolerate tremble

Overcoming online trolls

'You're too fat and ugly. You look (1) _____,' read one of the comments under a photo of me in a swimsuit. 'Why would you even (2) _____ to post a photo like this online?' another comment read. There were dozens more comments like this, and I was completely (3) _____ by them. I simply did not expect this kind of reaction to my photo.

Even though I knew I am not the most attractive person, I have never suffered any (4) _____ about my appearance. When I first saw the comments, I was shocked. Then, anger set in and my hands (5) _____ as I typed my furious replies. This, however, only made things worse. One of the bullies even (6) _____ to find out where I lived so he could come and hurt me. It was then that I made a / an (7) _____ to ask them to stop. I felt too (8) _____ by them to fight back anymore.

Over the next few days, I did not post anything on social media. While at school, I (9) _____ when I walked, as I was afraid that someone would notice me and make fun of me. On the fifth day, I could not (10) _____ this any longer. I needed help, so I went to Principal Chung. She told me that there was nothing wrong with how I look. She also told me to report the abusive comments. I was grateful for her kindness and determined to take action against these online trolls!

B. Complete the diagram below with the given words and phrases.

Behaviours and types of bullying

cyberbullying

insults

physical

pushing

sending rude messages

social

spreading rumours

verbal



Behaviour: (1) _____

someone to the ground

Type of bullying: (2) _____



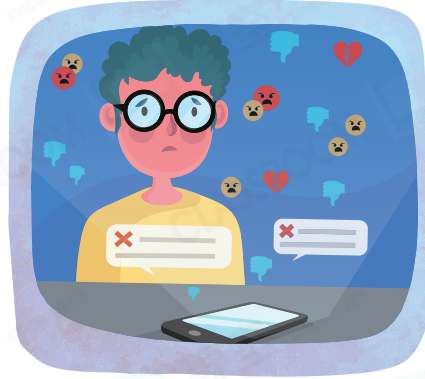
Behaviour: shouting (3) _____

Type of bullying: (4) _____



Behaviour: (5) _____

Type of bullying: (6) _____



Behaviour: (7) _____ on

someone's social media

Type of bullying: (8) _____

Writing

Your thoughts on bullying

Every year, lots of teenagers experience bullying. What are your thoughts on the possible causes and solutions? Write an article of about 180 words to share your thoughts.