

Cyberbullying

Digital Dilemma

Mackayla looked away from her computer screen in disbelief. One of her friends had just sent Mackayla the link to a vicious fake page ... of Mackayla's younger sister, Remy. Someone — she had no idea who was behind it — had used Remy's picture and name to make a fake account. They filled out all of the "About me" sections making fun of Remy's interests, hobbies, and even her style and appearance. All of the tagged pictures were pictures of Remy's head superimposed on embarrassing bodies. One pictured showed Remy's face on the body of a very overweight older man, and another had Remy's head on the body of a nearly naked bikini model. Even worse, it looked like the fake page had "friended" more than half of Remy's grade. Mackayla remembered that Remy had mentioned having some issues at school and had even come home crying a couple of times, but she had not realized that it had gotten this bad. Mackayla didn't know if Remy had seen the page yet, but she was devastated and knew that Remy would be too.



Discussion Questions

Courage

Do you think Mackayla should say anything? If so, to whom and how?

TEACHING TIP: Try to get students thinking about ways in which they can stand up for their own beliefs and the welfare of others by even the smallest of actions.

Compassion

How do you think Mackayla could help Remy in this situation, especially since the hacker is anonymous?

Empathy

What might motivate someone to create a fake social media page? How would you feel if someone invaded your digital "space"?

Teamwork

As a victim of cyberbullying, Remy may feel isolated and alone. What are some ways that you could remind Remy that she has a supportive network of friends who care about her well-being?

TEACHING TIP: The goal is to have students reflect on the importance of community and various support systems and how they can contribute to those communities.

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Extension Resources

Suggested Digital Citizenship Lessons



Digital Tools

It's through the
cultivation of empathic
students that schools
become communities.