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The Bully

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Taryn Robinson

The Bully

The bell rings, loud and sharp. The hallways flood with students on their way to their next class. Lockers slam, and mostly innocent chit-chat fills the halls. Walk further down that same hallway and things aren't so innocent. Someone is being tossed across the hallway. Blood has started coming from his nose and now he's crying. His belongings are tossed from his backpack as the tormentor laughs at him. No one stops this from happening. No one comes to the aid of the kid. The lack of compassion is shocking, and many people just watch, either astonished or in some cases laughing at the horrible events that are taking place.

Compassion is defined as concern for the sufferings of others. As the bully punches and kicks the much smaller kid next to him, it is evident that he does not experience this feeling of compassion for others. He clearly only cares about himself. He picks on people who are smaller than he because he doesn't care whom he hurts. He doesn't care that every time he pulls back his fist to go in for another punch, the kid's face only becomes more bloody and swollen. This is what compassion is not. The bully only bullies because he can.

He loves the power he feels he has over other people and their lives. Being power hungry is a far cry from being compassionate. People will do anything to become more powerful, more in charge. And the bully is the perfect example of how being power hungry can bring out the worst parts of a person. When it comes to caring about others and their well-being, feeling a need to gain more and more power is a terrible thing.

On the flip side of this scenario, there are many people who see bullying and stop it before it gets too serious. These people exhibit compassion in the purest form. These people put themselves in the position to be picked on themselves, or to be judged by others standing off to

the side. They realize they can be just like everyone else and not do anything, but they decide to help anyway. They put themselves in danger of having the bully's anger being redirected towards them. Despite all of this, they still care enough about preserving the feelings of others to take the time to help diffuse the situation.

Compassion can be shown in many ways. Many people exhibit similar traits — empathy, humanity, and charity are all great examples. Any time a person helps bring someone else up instead of tearing them down or just standing idly by waiting for someone else to bring them up, he or she exhibits compassion. Compassion is lending a helping hand where you can, and doing anything and everything in your power to help others during their hard times. It is respect. It is not being the cause of someone's struggles or misfortunes. In conclusion, compassion is looking out for others the way we would want them to look out for us, and making sure we do everything we possibly can to make sure they feel as if someone cares about them.