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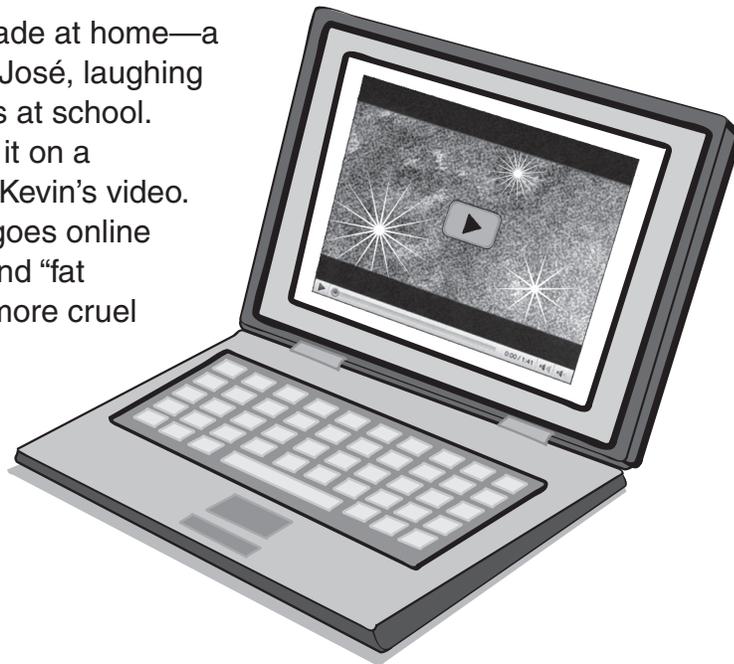
# Cyberbullying: Who, Me? Why Should I Care?

Kevin sends his friend José a short video he made at home—a reenactment of a famous fantasy movie scene. José, laughing at how Kevin looks, shows it to some other boys at school. The boys laugh at Kevin too and decide to post it on a video-sharing Web site. Millions of people view Kevin's video. Nasty comments are posted. Every day, Kevin goes online to check and sees more comments like "idiot" and "fat nerd." Every day, he goes to school and hears more cruel comments from his classmates.

**What's the Problem?** Imagine someone telling an embarrassing secret about you in front of a bunch of kids at school. Now imagine someone posting an embarrassing secret about you on the Internet.

How are these two events similar?
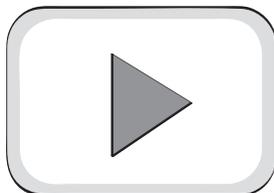
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How are they different?

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**Think About It** When kids intentionally embarrass another kid, that's just plain mean. Embarrassing or humiliating another kid using the Internet is *cyberbullying*. When José and the others posted the video online, they set up a cyberbullying situation. They made it easy for other kids in school, and kids all over the world, to join in with them and post hurtful words online—again and again.

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In this true story, many people contributed to the cyberbullying. But there were many times more kids who knew about the situation but did not get involved. Kids who are not cyberbullying but who see, hear, or know about it are called *bystanders*. In this situation, kids in school who witnessed the abuse and kids online who viewed the video were bystanders. What would you do if you were a bystander?

**Be CyberSmart!**

- Stop before you post photos and videos and think: Will it upset or harm another kid?

- Know when you are in over your head with a cyberbullying situation and ask a trusted adult for help.

**Find Solutions**  What could you say to or do for Kevin?

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What would you say to José?

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What could you say to the other kids at school who viewed the video and left cruel comments?

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How could you have involved a trusted adult?

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**Take Action: Practice Peer Mentoring**
In your class, pair off and take turns mentoring another student about cyberbullying. Allow the student to share his or her experiences. Give support. Ask questions but do not criticize. Share ideas for making the situation better.