

CHOICES

Scenario 5

Cast out Cassie

Your circle of friends have decided that one girl needs to go. Her name is Cassie.

Lucy, who is the queen bee of the group, gathers you all together and says, "She's so boring! And so silly. She's not cool at all. We don't need her anymore. Let's toss her out. What do you say? Wouldn't that be fun?"

But Cassie is your friend. You want to be in with the other girls, but now they're making you choose. Should you stand up for Cassie, or say nothing to keep in with Lucy and the gang?

What should you do?

A You say nothing. Lucy gleefully tells Cassie to go away. "You can't be with us any more," she says. Cassie cries. "She's just trying to make us feel bad," says Lucy sharply.

What next?

Your Mom asks about Cassie coming over for a play date on the weekend.

"Oh, she's not my friend anymore," you say.

"Cassie's not your friend? You've been with her since Kindergarten. What's going on?"

You tell her what Lucy said.

"Did you stand up for her?"

"No."

"Why not? She's your oldest friend. How could you?"

You burst into tears.

“I want to be with the cool girls. They made me choose. It’s not fair.”

Think about it

What is happening here is called ‘peer’ pressure, or ‘group think’.

In a group, people try to keep in harmony with the others by going along with things, even if sometimes they disagree. Even if what they’re doing is wrong.

The pain that Cassie is now suffering was totally avoidable. It is all coming from the boss girl (Lucy), who is delighting in her power. Is it worth being friends with a group that can be so cruel?

Abandoning Cassie is a betrayal. It could be you one day.

Do you want to look at another scenario involving bullying? (Go to 20)

Do you want to try this scenario again? (Go to 5)

B You decide that Cassie needs to be protected. “No, that’s wrong,” you say. “It’s her or me.”

What next?

Lucy is angry. The others say nothing.

But Cassie is overjoyed that you have taken her part.

You realise that she is a far better friend than Lucy and the others. You and Cassie can be a friendship group of two.

Think about it

Friendship requires commitment. If a friend needs help, it is important to provide it, even if it makes you uncomfortable. The pain – and there might be some – will almost certainly be brief. The rewards of a strong friendship will be ongoing.

Do you want to look at another scenario about friendship? (Go to 7)

Do you want to try this scenario again? (Go to 5)