

GOOD FRIENDS

Everyone likes to have good friends. Good friends are very special. They are part of what makes it nice to go to school.

Sometimes people do things that are not friendly. They might do things that make people feel sad. They might hurt people or say things that are not true.

Here are some little stories about friendship, or lack of friendship. The kids in the stories who are being good friends are helping people and doing things that make them feel good. They are helping them to feel and be safe. They are not ignoring problems – they are trying their best to fix them.

Some of the kids in these stories are not being good friends. They are doing mean things and making people feel bad. They are not helping when there is a problem, even when they know what is wrong.

Sometimes friends need to think hard so they can choose the right thing to do. There might be more than one way to be a good friend.

What sort of friends are the kids in the stories being?

Possible answers are given on page 3 of this class discussion sheet.

Scene 1

Jarrold is pushing a younger boy, Robert, in the playground. Robert falls over and starts to cry. There are lots of kids watching. They all do different things.

- Maggie goes to check if Robert is hurt.
- Sam looks away.
- Peter goes to find a teacher.
- Amy watches and does not do anything.

Scene 2

Emma writes a nasty note about Mel. She passes it around in the classroom to show everyone.

- Cindi reads the note and giggles.
- Paula reads the note and passes it on to the next person.
- Rebecca reads the note and tells Emma she thinks Emma is being mean and she should stop.
- Jasmine reads the note and goes and tells the teacher.

Scene 3

Simone is sent an email. It says she is a cheat. It says she cheated on her Maths test. Simone cries because she is always being sent mean emails and she doesn't like it. She works hard and she never cheats at school. She talks to some kids about what to do.

- Adam laughs and says she should have cheated – it might have help her get a better score.
- Pedro says she should send an email back saying how she feels.
- Enid gives Simone her favourite pencil as a present.
- Tamsyn giggles and says she knows who sent it but she's not telling.

Scene 4

Jackie is crying. There is a group of kids waiting for her to leave school. She knows they are going to get her when she walks out the gate. She sits on the ground with her bag. She will just have to wait until they go.

- Noel walks past and ignores Jackie. He goes to talk to the other kids.
- Tuk walks past and says goodbye to Jackie then keeps going out the gate.
- Sui Yin stops and asks Jackie what she is crying.
- Tom stops and asks if Jackie needs some help.

Scene 5

Marcus knows he has to stop picking on other kids. If he doesn't, the Principal is going to send him away to another school. He wants to make some changes, but he is not sure how.

- Toby says he should just try being nice to other kids instead of picking on them all the time.
- Pascal suggests he learn a new sport so he is kept busy.
- Chris tells Marcus there is no hope he can change – he is going to get thrown out of school for sure.
- Angus thinks school would be much nicer without Marcus, so he suggests Marcus should ignore the principal and just go on picking on kids.

Scene 6

Alice has stolen some money from Kim's bag. She is always doing things like this to Kim. Kim doesn't have any money for lunch now. Alice laughs and deliberately eats her lunch order in front of Kim. Kim is hungry.

- Becky offers to share her lunch with Kim.
- Megan tells the teacher that Alice is being mean to people again.
- Simone tells Alice to give Kim her money back and stop being nasty.
- Meah says Kim is too fat anyway and it will do her good to miss lunch.

You have read and talked about the various bullying scenes. Here are some possible views of what has happened.

Scene 1

It is great that Maggie and Peter are both being friends and helping in different ways. Maggie is finding out if Robert has been hurt. He might need some first aid. Peter is finding a teacher so they can make sure Jarrod does not hurt anyone else.

Sam and Amy are not being good friends to Robert. They have chosen not to get involved. This is like telling Jarrod know it is OK to hurt people.

Scene 2

Cindi and Paula are not being good friends. They do not tell Emma she is being mean. They think it is OK to write nasty notes.

Rebecca and Jasmine are being good friends to Mel. Rebecca says what she thinks to Emma. She lets her know she does not think it is OK to write nasty things about people. Jasmine decides it is safer to tell the teacher than to talk to Emma about what she has done wrong.

Scene 3

Adam is not being a good friend. He laughs at the email and picks on Simone. This makes Simone feel worse.

Pedro is being a good friend. He has a good idea about what Simone could do. Enid is being a good friend. She gives Simone a gift that will make her feel better.

Tamsyn is not being a good friend. She knows who is picking on Simone but she won't do anything to stop it. She thinks it is funny that Simone is upset.

Scene 4

Noel is not being a good friend to Jackie. Maybe he has not noticed that Jackie is crying. Maybe he doesn't care. He has not done anything to help her.

Tuk is not being a good friend. He does not help Jackie. He ignores her crying and does not stop to help.

Sui Yin is being a good friend to Jackie when she stops and asks what is wrong.

Tom is being a good friend to Jackie. He offers to help her. He does not ignore the problem.

Scene 5

Toby is being a good friend. He wants to help Marcus get along better with other kids.

Pascal has a good idea. Playing sport will keep Marcus busy so he does not have time to pick on kids.

Chris is not being a good friend. Maybe he thinks it will be funny if Marcus has to leave school. Maybe Marcus has picked on Chris before.

Angus is not being a good friend. Maybe Marcus has picked on him before. Angus does not help Marcus.

Scene 6

Becky is being a good friend. She makes sure Kim has something to eat for lunch. Megan is being a good friend. Maybe she is scared of Alice. Megan thinks it is safest to tell the teacher.

Simone is being a good friend. She is not scared of Alice. She says what she thinks and lets Alice know it is wrong to take money.

Meah is not being a good friend. She says mean things about Kim. She makes Kim feel worse.