

What would you do?

Carefully read the bullying situations below (left). After each one, pick one or more possible responses from the box on the right. Which are 'Inappropriate responses', 'Realistic responses', 'Short term solutions' and 'Long term solutions'?

- A girl calls you 'Miss Piggy'. When you walk by, she makes 'oink oink' noises. All her friends laugh.
- You are at your locker in the corridor. Two of the older kids come by and bump you aside. They knock all your belongings out of the locker and kick them around the floor.
- Two older boys catch you every lunchtime. They demand money, or say they'll beat you up.
- A lot of kids in the playground call you horrible racist names because your skin is a different colour and your parents were born overseas.
- You know that there's a party planned for one of the girls in the class. You know that all the other girls in the class have been invited.
- Every time you go to the boys' toilets, a couple of boys call you 'girl' and a 'pansy'.
- You are pretty and smart. A group of girls have decided they hate you. They pass notes in class, laugh behind your back and now they have started making abusive phone calls on the weekend.
- Every time you put up your hand to answer questions in class, the kids in the back row whisper (loudly enough to be heard) 'Suck', 'Einstein' and 'Brain'.
- Two older girls follow you around at playtime, making fun of you. They call you 'four eyes' and 'lardbum'.
- A bigger boy follows you home from school every night. He tries to trip you up or push you into bushes. If you protest, he runs off laughing.

Acknowledgement: Murphy & Lewers, *The Hidden Hurt*

Possible responses:

- Burst into tears.
- Say nothing, keep your head down and wait for the bullying to end.
- Close your eyes and clench your fists.
- Say nothing and walk away.
- Pretend you didn't hear.
- Say in a very loud voice, "Leave me alone!"
- Say "My father will come around and beat you up!"
- Go away as soon as possible and join other people.
- Say something really rude.
- Say that you'll tell on the bully.
- Scream or yell at the bully.
- Punch the bully.
- Get someone older and have him/her bully the bully.
- Do nothing but find a way later to 'get even' with the bully.
- Run away.
- Find excuses not to go to school.
- Tell a teacher.