



Personal Complicity

Part 1

A. Follow your teacher's instructions. Look at the photo (A) or the poem (B) and answer the questions.



B. *First they came for the socialists,
and I did not speak out
because I was not a socialist.*

*Then they came for the Jews,
and I did not speak out
because I was not a Jew.*

*Then they came for me,
and there was no one left
to speak for me.*

(Attributed to Martin Niemöller)

1. Who is in trouble in this situation?
2. Who is not helping in this situation?
3. What is the effect of not helping the person in trouble in this situation?

1. Who is in trouble in this situation?
2. Who is not helping in this situation?
3. What is the effect of not helping the person in trouble in this situation?

B. In pairs, compare the answers to your questions and see what the photo and the poem have in common.

C. As a class, read the definition of "bystander" and discuss the problem with someone being a bystander.

bystander (*noun*)

A person near where something is happening who is watching but not taking part.



Secondary

Part 2

A. Look at the photos and identify what the problem is and who might be bystanders in these situations. What can they do to help?



B. Read the posts on a discussion forum and identify which of the problems from A are discussed.

↑ 50.5K ↓ postit/schoollife Posted by user/badbystander

What was a time when you didn't do something to help a friend but you wish you had?

1.75k Comments Share Like

@goodfriend 2 weeks ago In eighth grade, some kids said horrible things about my friend's body and they pushed him when they saw him. I was scared so I didn't say anything.

@lucytunes 2 weeks ago All the girls in my class sent embarrassing pictures of my friend in a school messaging group. I didn't share the pictures but I wish I had commented.

@evantheterrible 5 days ago A friend did something really stupid last year (he took his pajamas to school instead of his gym gear). Everyone called him PJ and made jokes about pajamas all the time. Me too! At first, he laughed with us but we continued. Now, he doesn't talk to me.

@amara4real 3 days ago @evantheterrible My friend badly cut her own bangs with scissors. We called her Bangdra (her name is Sandra) for years. We still do!



eighth grade (aged 13-14) gym gear bangs pajamas



year 9 (aged 13-14) PE (Physical Education) kit fringe pyjamas

C. Read the posts again. Choose T (True) or F (False) for each statement and correct the false statements.

- 1. @goodfriend feels bad because he didn't defend his friend. T / F
2. The kids in @goodfriend's school were physically and verbally bad to his friend. T / F
3. @lucytunes sent pictures of her friend to the people in her class. T / F
4. @lucytunes regrets that she didn't say anything in the school messaging group. T / F
5. Initially, the friend of @evantheterrible thought what he did was funny. T / F
6. PJ are probably the initials @evantheterrible's friend. T / F
7. Sandra went to a hair salon to get her hair cut. T / F
8. Even now, @amara4real uses the name Bangdra for her friend Sandra. T / F

D. Discuss how you could help someone in similar situations to the ones discussed.








Part 3

A. Work in groups. Read the poster and answer the questions.

1. How can you identify these problems?
2. What can everyone (school staff and students) do to encourage people to help with these problems?

Speak Out, Stand Up, Act Now!

The new school principal is starting a campaign to solve the biggest problems in the school community that we often see but do nothing about. The campaign is called: *Speak Out, Stand Up, Act Now!* The five problems she has identified are:

- Littering—trash not being put in the trashcan 
- Bullying—people treating others verbally or physically badly 
- Discrimination—people from one group excluding people from another group 
- Favoritism—teachers treating some students better than others 
- Mental health—anxiety, depression, etc. 

B. Work in a different group. Think about your school. Choose three of the biggest problems in your school and plan ways to help with these problems.

C. Find or draw images that represent the three problems and give a presentation on the best ways to identify and help people solve these problems.



Extension

- A.** Work in groups. Identify some problems in the community that people often see and do nothing about.
- B.** Research what leaders in the community are doing to solve those problems and discuss ways to encourage everyone in the community to help.
- C.** Identify an important leader in your community and write an email to that leader with your ideas on ways to involve everyone in solving the problems of their community.