

the CHARACTER network



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BULLY ALERT!™ BY JIM LORD

Terry was the captain of the football team. He was fast—he was popular—and he scored more touchdowns than anyone else! While some of his team mates were having a hard time staying out of trouble, Terry was working hard

to keep up his grades and participate in other activities.

He was in the school choir, and in a community choir that sang to help raise money for poor people. His father had died when Terry was still very young, so he had to be the man of the house to help his mother and his little sister. One day, as Terry and some of his team mates were walking down the hall at school, they passed a small boy who was carrying a large stack of books. Just then, one of Terry's friends reached out and knocked the books out of the boy's hands. Terry snapped around instantly and said to his friend, "Why did you do that?!" Then Terry helped the boy pick up his books while apologizing to him about his friend's actions. Terry was a lot of things—a popular football player, a singer, the man of his house, and a community volunteer. But one thing Terry was not... was a bully. He chose, instead, to be a hero.



The preceding story is an example from the "Bully Alert"™ CD series produced and distributed by The Character Network for use on elementary school intercom systems.

COMING: A NEW BEGINNING

Site and Newsletter to Become Proactive Bully Prevention Resource Center

The act of bullying has been around as long as mankind has been living on this planet—so have heart disease, alcohol abuse, and depression.

In modern times, we have taken great strides to identify and address sufferers of these and many other disorders. Most diseases and social maladies now have support groups, resources, and a wealth of shared information from real people telling real stories.

What about bullying? Yes, of course, there is information about bullying. Hundreds of studies have been conducted. Reports have been published. But where is the "Man on the Street" view? Where are the real stories, the heartbreaks, the successes? The clinical reports are just that—clinical, and often difficult to read. Where is there a place, a central location, a clearing house, to share stories, ideas, and solutions? Where are the success stories easily found?

It is our hope that this newsletter and website can serve as such a place. We want you to feel free to share your stories.

Maybe, as a child, you were bullied by a peer, a relative, a parent, or even a teacher. Tell your story! Talk about how it made you feel and how it affected your life. Tell how you overcame or how you are still dealing with the results. Even if you have not suffered personally, you have certainly witnessed a bullying situation—your neighbor, your child, your student. Tell about what you saw, and how (or if) it was resolved. Maybe you were the bully. Talk about how you came to realize there is a better way.

We see The Character Network as becoming a viable Network for people who genuinely want to make a difference in the way people treat each other. You never know how you might impact someone else's life by sharing your experiences! If you want an article byline, fine. If you wish to remain anonymous, that's fine, too.

Just send your stories, your comments, or your messages to:

Newsletter@TheCharacterNetwork.com.

We're asking your help to grow this much needed resource.

BULLIES, VICTIMS (TARGETS), AND ENABLERS: WHAT WE HAVE IN COMMON

“Out of a given group, one quarter will be bullies, one quarter will be bullied, and the rest will be enablers (those who do not speak up for fear that they might be bullied.)”

—Melissa Morrison, Dallas Morning News article.

Three scenarios, three viewpoints. The 12-year-old spits chewed pizza on your shirt in the lunchroom and laughs at your reaction; it's now a game of keep-away with your science project—everyone is laughing but you; someone



trips you in the hallway and suddenly you're the one face-down on the floor as the snickering walks off in the distance. Why is it always you?

Let's turn the tables. Now you are the 12-year-old spitting chewed pizza on someone's shirt. You start the game of keep-away with someone's science project. You trip someone in the hallway and snicker as you continue on to your next class. Why did you do that?

Here's the third side. You're still 12 years old. You see a peer spit chewed pizza on someone's shirt. You witness a game of keep-away with someone's science project. You are there when someone gets tripped in the hallway, and yet you choose to do nothing. Why?

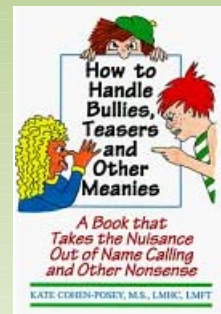
The answers become fairly obvious when you layer the three stories and realize there is a common thread. What is it? Insecurity.

Of course, the bully, the victim, and the enabler don't have to be 12-years-old, they can be any age. But for the sake of painting this picture, let's stick with age 12. As an adult, today, would that 6th grader intimidate you? Of course not! If you were suddenly 12 again, and were able to know what you know now, would that bully bother you? Again, no. Apply the same measure to yourself as the 12-

year-old bully, or the 12-year-old enabler. The results still come out the same.

Does that make dealing with the problem of bullying any easier. It could, by knowing where to start. This newsletter and this website are dedicated to providing Positive Personal Vision to help build accomplishment, and in turn, confidence and security.

Recommended Reading



How to Handle Bullies, Teasers and Other Meanies

By Kate Cohen-Posey

[Click here to order.](#)

campus

PRESENTATIONS

by The Character Network™

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Jim Lord's live presentations for elementary school students are fun, motivating and inspiring. They cause even the youngest children to think about their relationships with others as they learn about heroes who help people and bullies who hurt people. Students also learn to visualize themselves in the future and how to become their own heroes by preparing now to make their adult lives better!

FAMILY ASSEMBLIES

Presentations for families are conducted in the evening and are designed to help parents understand what their children are learning in school about bullying. Practical tips are shared to enable parents to further support these concepts at home.

ADMINISTRATORS/FACULTY PROGRAMS

Jim brings a new perspective to the subject of "Bully Prevention", and faculties can learn how to help students visualize their own futures. Tips and life-applications are given to help motivate each of your students to enthusiastically begin preparing for that future!

Call 800-364-6883 to bring Jim's life-changing inspiration to your campus!

STUDENT LEARNS TO FOCUS ON HIS FUTURE

Real Stories from Real People...

I am sixteen years old and I am in the tenth grade. My counselor said I should write to you and tell my story. Beginning

My grades were always okay, but when all the teasing started, I guess I just stopped caring, and my grades went

down. In the eighth grade I failed two classes.

That's when my dad started talking to me about what I wanted to be when I was grown.

When I was a little kid, I wanted to be an astronaut,

in the seventh grade I started gaining weight and everyone began making fun of me. I hated going to school, so I asked my parents to please let me go to a private school, or just let me home school. They said they could not afford a private school, and since both of them worked, home schooling would not be a good choice either. Mom works in the cafeteria at one of the elementary schools, so she gets home just before I do in the afternoons.

but by the eighth grade I guess I didn't even think about my future anymore. But then I started thinking about it a lot, and my dad helped me think it through. He was a lot of help even though he never went to college and barely finished high school. He started saying how much he hoped I would want to do better in life than he had.

I settled on a career that had something to do with computers. I didn't know

exactly what yet, but I had always been pretty good with computers, and I liked them. My counselor helped me too by working with my schedule and talking to me more. That was at the beginning of the ninth grade. My grades started getting a lot better because I suddenly had a reason to go to school. But the teasing about my weight was still going on. That's when I started talking to my parents about how I could lose weight. My mom helped me know what kind of food to eat and not eat, and my dad started walking with me, and then we started running together. It was really hard to lose the weight, because my medicine makes you gain weight. But I worked really hard and lost forty pounds. It is still hard to keep it off, but I do, and I'm glad that I can. Also, my counselor says that if I keep working hard on my grades, I'm on track to graduate in the top ten percent of my class, and maybe better! That could mean scholarships for college. That's a long way from what I was doing in eighth grade!

Thank you for giving me a place to tell my story, and I hope it can help someone else.

—Josh

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FROM THE FOUNDER **JIM LORD**



Jim Lord, founder of The Character Network, is a long-time broadcaster and public speaker. A father of six, Jim can be available to bring his experience, insights, and inspiration to your students on any grade level campus, Kindergarten through High School. [Click here](#) to see what others are saying about Jim's presentations. Call 800-364-6883 to schedule an assembly program, teacher in-service, or workshop. For more information, email info@TheCharacterNetwork.com.

SEND US YOUR STORIES

We want to hear from you...

Send us your story—whether as a child, as an adult, or as a professional who works with children. If you think your experience can help someone else, please send it! If selected, your story will be featured in a future edition of The Character Network™ newsletter.

Send stories to:

Newsletter@TheCharacterNetwork.com

THE BEGINNING OF A HERO™: THE JOHN SCHNEIDER STORY

BY JIM LORD



Sometimes life was not very much fun for little Johnny Schneider. When he was in school, he was really overweight, and the bullies would

tease him and play mean tricks on him. But through it all, Johnny knew he wanted to grow up to be somebody...special.

He started acting on stage when he was only eight years old, and he worked hard to be the best actor he could possibly be. Not long after that, he learned how to play the guitar. As a teenager, he learned a lot about professional race car driving, but many of the other kids were still being mean to him.

One day, Johnny found... a hundred dollar bill! He tried to turn it in so that whoever lost it could get it back, but, because of where he found it, he was told there was no way to know who lost it. So Johnny knew this was his chance to change things. He got a membership to a health club and started working out every day until he was strong and healthy. He was no longer overweight! Then, only a short time later when he was 18 years old, another big chance came his way. He tried out for a part in a brand new television show called *The Dukes of Hazzard*. And, you know what? He got the part! Suddenly John Schneider became extremely famous!!

By this time he had also learned how to sing really well, and he became a country music star. Later, he was hired to be an actor in a lot of movies and other television shows, including a show called

Smallville, where he played the role of Mr. Kent, Clark Kent's father. But all along, John knew there had to be more important things in life.

One day, he and his friend, Marie Osmond, worked very hard together and started the [Children's Miracle Network](#), an organization that today has helped over 17 million kids! John always believed that helping others was very important. Yes, that little Johnny Schneider, who was picked on a lot when he was a child, grew up to be John Schneider the television and movie star who still works very hard to help other people in a lot of very special ways. He grew up to be... a hero!

The preceding story is true, and is an example from "The Beginning of a Hero™" CD series produced and distributed by The Character Network for use on elementary school intercom systems.

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www.TheCharacterNetwork.com/subscribe.htm

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P.O. Box 8484 • Jacksonville, Texas 75766