Making Assumptions

Making an assumption is coming to a conclusion about something without knowing all of the facts. People make assumptions on a daily basis to fill in the blanks and minimize asking questions. But a lot of times our assumptions can cause us to make judgments about people that are wrong. These judgments can happen within 30 seconds of meeting someone.

**How does this relate to bullying?** One of the reasons bystanders do not intervene are the assumptions they have made about the victim. These assumptions can lead bystanders to believe that the victim deserves to be bullied.

**GOAL:** Learn the different assumptions you make about people and why they might be bullied.

Read the 5 descriptions of different female students. As you read through each of these, try to form a picture in your head of each student by thinking about what the person looks like, how they act, or what they like to do. Then fill in each of the boxes below about the person.

|  | **What are 3 assumptions you made about the person?** | **Why might they be bullied?** | **Do they deserve to be bullied? Give 3 reasons why or why not.** |
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| Abbey is short in height and skinny. She has long brown hair that goes to the middle of her back. She wears glasses and is quiet around other students. |  |  |  |
| Marci is tall and has dyed black hair. She likes to dress in all black clothing and paints her fingernails dark purple. She also has several piercings. |  |  |  |

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|  | **What are 3 assumptions you made about this person?** | **Why might they be bullied?** | **Do they deserve to be bullied? Give 3 reasons why or why not.** |
| Ally has short blonde hair that is sometimes messy. She is overweight and keeps to herself most of the time. She also struggles in school and with her grades. |  |  |  |
| Kate has long blonde hair and likes to wear makeup. She always tries to dress fashionable and is up on trends. She does well in school and is part of the varsity volleyball team. |  |  |  |
| Kristen is tall and likes to wear low cut shirts. She is flirty with boys but doesn’t have many girlfriends. She also likes to gossip. |  |  |  |