

## Lesson Plan 8-31-2020

Jay Hiller

Target: Understanding that not all contributions to the conversation are welcome.

Story 1: Bruce

Bruce sat in the cafeteria eating his lunch. Cindy and Jeff were sitting across from him, talking in low voices. They were speaking so quietly the Bruce could barely hear them. As he listened, he could tell that there was a lot of yelling and fighting in Cindy's home.

Cindy said, "You know, it's really hard, with my family. Sometimes I just don't know what to do."

Jeff said, "It sounds terrible. Have you told Ms. Meera or Mr. Clinkscales about it?"

"Yes," said Cindy. She sounded miserable.

When you hear a conversation, there are a couple of different parts. The first part is the topic, or what people are talking about? What are Jeff and Cindy talking about?

A second part are the feelings that the people are having? As you listen to the story what would you say Cindy's feelings are?

A third part is a judgment that you can make about whether this is a private or a public conversation? What do you think? Would this be a good time to join the conversation?

Bruce said, "Hey Cindy, don't worry. It's good that you talked to the counselors. Everything will be okay."

Cindy gasped. "Mind your own business," she said.

Bruce was surprised and his feelings were hurt. Cindy had always been so nice to him.

Why do you think Cindy told Bruce to mind his own business?

Why do you think Cindy and Jeff were talking about something private in a public place?

It was a mistake to talk about something private in the cafeteria. But, does that make it okay for Bruce to add his opinion without being asked?

What do you think Cindy and Jeff think about Bruce?

Story 2: Cindy

Cindy did not like going home on Fridays. Everybody at her house was mad at each other all the time. When it was time to catch the bus to go back to Austin on Sundays, she was always glad. She really didn't want to go home this weekend. All morning long, she had a terrible feeling in the pit of her stomach.

Thank goodness for her friend, Jeff. Jeff was a good listener. It felt so good to tell somebody how she felt, Cindy forgot all about the other students around them. She forgot that other might people might hear them.

Cindy said, "You know, it's really hard, with my family. Sometimes I just don't know what to do."

Jeff said, "It sounds terrible. Have you told Ms. Meera or Mr. Clinkscales about it?"

"Yes," said Cindy. Talking to Ms. Meera had helped. But she still had to go home and deal with all that arguing this weekend. She felt like crying.

Has Cindy even noticed that Bruce is there?

(Maybe discuss ways to ask permission to join the conversation. "I can't help but overhear. This sounds private. Emphasize that it would be really hard to do, best thing to do is to be quiet.)

A voice seemed to come out of nowhere. "Hey Cindy, don't worry. It's good that you talked to the counselors. Everything will be okay."

Who was that? It was that guy, Bruce. She hardly knew that guy. Had he been listening to her private business that whole time? Yuk.

"Mind your own business," Cindy said. She couldn't believe that he had butted into her private conversation like that. He had always seemed like an okay guy, but now she didn't ever want to see him again.

Now that you've heard both points of view, what advice would you give Bruce when he first starts listening to the conversation? What could he do to avoid overhearing something that is private? (Move, put on headphones)