

Playground Problems

Written by Kelly Hashway

"You're it first!" Maria told Jayla as she ran away.

Pedro took off after her, dodging the playground equipment. "Can't catch me!"

Jayla looked back and forth between Maria and Pedro before deciding to chase Maria first. "I'm going to get you!" She dashed between the swings and tagged Maria.



Maria fell over, landing in the woodchips. Her knee burned, and Maria saw it was skinned. She slowly got up, using the swing to help her and to keep weight off her leg with the skinned knee. Jayla turned to run after Pedro, but Maria yelled, "Look what you did. You didn't have to shove me that hard, you bully!"

Jayla stopped and looked at Maria. "You're such a crybaby. No wonder nobody ever wants to play with you!"



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1. Who is being bullied in this story?
2. In the story, Maria yelled, "Look what you did. You didn't have to shove me that hard, you bully!" What could she have said instead?
3. In the story, Jayla says, "You're such a crybaby. No wonder nobody ever wants to play with you!" What could Jayla have said instead?
4. If you were Pedro, what would you do to calm the situation?

Teacher's Discussion Guide

Anti-Bullying Story Playground Problems

Written by Kelly Hashway



Read and discuss.

1. Who is being bullied in this story?

In this story, Jayla and Maria are both bullying each other.

2. In the story, Maria yelled, "Look what you did. You didn't have to shove me that hard, you bully!" What could she have said instead?

She might have said, "You pushed me too hard. Please be more careful."

Or "I don't like playing this rough. I'm going to sit out of this game."

3.  **PREVIEW** play
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4. If you were Pedro, what would you do to calm the situation?

Pedro could have told both girls to calm down, and reminded them that they were friends.

He could have asked Maria if she was hurt badly, and reminded Jayla to be careful.

He could have said, "Let's take a break from this game for awhile. I think we could all use a short rest. Maria, why don't you go have your knee looked at by the school nurse (or a parent)?"