



Class Discussion Questions for the Stop Bullying Now! Illustrated Book Series with TIME for Kids

Note to teachers: We encourage you to use the following questions as discussion starters with your students. Some possible answers/prompts appear in brackets after the questions.

Volume #1

1. Why do you think K.B. didn't want to go to school? *[It was her very first day at a new school, and she probably was scared because she didn't know anybody. Have you ever been the "new kid" at school or on a team? Did someone make you feel less scared? She also had to wear clothes that weren't very cool, and she was afraid of what the other students might think of her.]*
2. Mr. Bittner seemed angry when Cassandra called K.B. a "freak". The door closed before we could see what happened next, however. What do you think Mr. Bittner did about Cassandra's mean comment? *[He probably talked with Cassandra after class about her mean comment and told Cassandra he'd be watching to make sure she didn't pick on K.B. Share with the class what you would do.]*
3. How do you think K.B. could have handled Cassandra's rude comments? *[Talked with her mom, Mr. Bittner, or another adult at school.]*
4. What is Milton Weems' big dream? *[To be a be a tuba rock star!]*
5. How many different ways was Milton bullied today at school? *[At least three. He was shoved, hit with mud, AND teased. What are some other ways that kids bully each other?]*
6. If Milton tries to keep ignoring Brick, do you think the bullying will stop? *[Probably not. Sometimes trying to ignore bullying will work, but usually the bullying just continues. In Milton's case, it looks like the bullying has been going on a long time. He did the right thing in talking to Señora Ortega.]*
7. What do you think Señora Ortega should do to help Milton? *[She should talk with Milton's parents about the bullying. She should also talk with the principal or other teachers at school and make sure that an adult talks with Brick and his friends about their bullying Milton. How do you think Milton would feel about this? What else might she do?]*
8. Why do you think that Josh was surprised that Brick was so nice to him? *[Brick bullies a lot of kids. He picked on Josh when Josh was younger.]*
9. Why do you think most kids are scared of Brick? *[He's kind of big and mean. He also has a couple of friends that help him out. Kids who bully often have a group of friends that tag along. Brick probably wouldn't be as scary without his group backing him up.]*
10. Are kids who bully always bigger than other kids? *[No. Often boys who bully are bigger or stronger than other kids, but this isn't always true. Are there any kids in the book who are small but who bully? Koz.]*
11. Why did Melanie tell Cassandra that she was talking to "nobody" when she actually was talking to Raven and Lasa? *[She was afraid that Cassandra would be mad that she was talking to them. What kind of friend do you think Cassandra is to Melanie? How do you think Melanie feels about the situation?]*
12. What do you think Melanie should have done when Cassandra saw her talking to her friends, Lasa and Raven? *[Tell Cassandra that Raven and Lasa are her friends, too. How hard do you think that would be for Melanie to do? Why?]*
13. Why do you think that Bibi and Mimi had nightmares about Cassandra? *[They were afraid that Cassandra would kick them out of her group of friends if they dressed wrong or had a bad hair day. Do you think Cassandra is a very good friend? True friends like you for who you are.]*

Volume #2

1. Why did K.B. tell her mother that her day at school was “just great”? *[She didn’t want her mom to worry about her.]*
2. What might be a better way for K.B. to answer her mom’s question about her day? *[Tell her mom what really happened on her first day. K.B. probably will feel better just talking about her horrible day. Her mom seems really caring and may have some good ideas about how to help K.B. at the new school.]*
3. Do you think Melanie bullied K.B.? *[Although she wasn’t as mean as Cassandra, Bibi, or Mimi, she did join in some of the bullying. Can you give me some examples of her joining in? Do you think she felt good about what she did? What makes you think that? She did look kind of upset when K.B. sat on the ketchup packet. What could Melanie have done to make sure she helped and didn’t hurt K.B.?)*
4. If you were Josh and watched a group of kids stomp on someone’s lunch, what could you do to help?
5. How much courage do you think it would take for Josh to stand up for Milton while Brick and his gang are squashing Milton’s lunch? *[A lot! If it’s too scary to do something to stop bullying while it is happening, you can always do something like tell an adult about it later.]*
6. What about after Brick and the gang leave? What could Josh and Raven do to help Milton? *[They could help him clean up his squashed lunch, ask Milton to sit with them, tell Milton that they don’t think it’s right that he’s being picked on, and tell an adult.]*
7. Cassandra was up to no good on the soccer field. What two mean things did she do to her teammate, K.B.? *[She stole the ball away from K.B. just as K.B. was about to kick it. She also tripped K.B. and sent her flying into the mud.]*
8. Why do you think Coach Cruncher didn’t tell Cassandra to stop picking on K.B.? *[Coach Cruncher probably didn’t see the mean things that Cassandra did to K.B. Sometimes it is hard for adults to spot bullying, so it is best if you tell adults.]*
9. What could K.B. have done about Cassandra’s behavior on the soccer field? *[She could have talked with Coach Cruncher about Cassandra. She also could have told her Mom later about what happened and asked her advice about what to do.]*
10. Why weren’t Lasa and Raven very friendly to Melanie in the store? *[Because Melanie hadn’t been very nice to them the other day at school. Melanie dropped them for another group of friends. Has that ever happened to you?]*
11. What happens to make K.B.’s mom finally realize why K.B. is feeling upset about school? *[She actually saw K.B. being picked on by Cassandra and the other girls. What did she remember when she saw K.B. being bullied? She remembered how it felt to be bullied when she was a girl. Have you ever thought that lots of adults you know might have been bullied when they were kids?]*
12. Now that K.B.’s mom knows that her daughter is being bullied by some girls at school, what do you think is the first thing that she’ll do? *[When K.B. gets home from school, she’ll probably talk with K.B. about what she saw. What do you think she’ll say? She’ll also probably talk with the principal or counselor at the school to make sure that they help stop the bullying.]*

Volume #3

1. Why is Milton upset when his parents ask him if he's going to practice his tuba before dinner? *[He's in a really bad mood because he was bullied all day at school by Brick and his gang.]*
2. Why do you think Milton doesn't tell his parents the real reason why he's so upset? Would you tell your parents it you were Milton? Why/why not?
3. Egg and Drizzy used to pick on Josh. So why are they nice to him, all of a sudden? *[Thor was the main bully. Without him around, Egg and Drizzy don't feel like they have to pick on Josh. Lots of kids will join in bullying if another kid starts it.]*
4. Why do you think Mr. Bittner decided to "mix up" the lab partners? *[He wanted Melanie and K.B. to work together as lab partners.]*
5. Why did Mr. Bittner think it might be a good idea for Melanie and K.B. to work together? *[Earlier that day, he saw K.B. teased by the girls in the hallway and thought Melanie might be a friend to K.B. Maybe he also thought K.B. would help Melanie do better in science class.]*
6. Why do you think Melanie goes back into the lab after class is over? *[She felt bad about leaving so quickly, without saying "bye" to K.B.]*
7. Why did Josh ask if he could sit with Milton at lunch? *[He had seen Brick bullying Milton and probably thought that Milton could use a friend.]*
8. Brick seemed mad when he left the lunchroom. Why? *[He was mad that Milton didn't seem upset about the chocolate pudding in his mac and cheese. Kids often bully others because they like to make them upset. How do you think Brick expected Milton to react? He also was upset that Josh, Raven, and the other kids at the table stood up to him. Also, his buddies, Koz and Snoog, laughed at Milton's joke.]*
9. What could Josh, Raven, and the other kids do to help make sure that Brick doesn't pick on Milton or other kids anymore? *[They could: keep hanging out with Milton; keep an eye on Brick and if he gets out of line again, tell him to cut it out; and talk with Mr. Bittner or another adult at school. Even if Brick quits picking on Milton, he might find another student to bully. So, it's always a good idea to talk with an adult about bullying.]*
10. Why was Melanie kicked out of Cassandra's group of friends? *[Melanie picked K.B., not Cassandra, to be on her team. Melanie also messed up Cassandra's plan to hit K.B. in the face with the soccer ball.]*
11. Do you think K.B. will get picked on any more by Cassandra? Why/why not?
12. If Cassandra bullies K.B. again, what do you think she should do?