

Co-creating a Harmonious School: Stop Bullying

Appendix 1a

Example of Short Speech for Morning Assembly

“Cyber-bullying –Stabbing Others in the Back”

Good morning, everyone!

Today I would like to share a historical story with you.

The story is recorded in a Chinese classical history book – Zuo Zhuan. During the Spring and Autumn Period (about 2 700 years ago), there were two military generals in one of the ancient feudal states called Zheng. The older one was named Ying Shukao and the younger was named Gongsun Zidu.

One day the two generals scrambled for a war chariot. General Ying was old, but he was still skilful and nimble, so he pulled the chariot and ran away. Young General Zidu could not face failure, so he ran straight after Ying with his halberd, but General Ying got away in the nick of time after running for a distance. This resulted in General Zidu’s tremendous hatred for General Ying.

A few months later, the state of Zheng invaded a state called Xu. General Ying ran up to the front bravely and climbed up the top of the city wall. Since General Zidu was so envious of the great achievement General Ying was going to make that he shot an arrow at him. Then the old brave general fell from the city wall and died.

My fellow classmates, judging from your face, I suppose you don’t approve of what General Gongsun Zidu did, do you?

If the truth be told, I don’t like him either. What a narrow-minded man he was, and just because of losing a dispute, he employed sneaky tricks to ambush his competitor.

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In fact, the story I just told is the origin of a four-word Chinese idiom. Have you figured it out yet?

That's right. I believe many of you know that the answer is "stabbing others in the back."

In modern society, you may not expect people to stab others in the back. However, I will think of this idiom every time I read any news about cyber-bullying. The harm inflicted by popular cyber practices, such as "rumour spreading", "cyber trick", "mockery and ridicule", "human search", "graft one twig on another (picture editing)", setting up "collective mocking and bullying platform" etc., is not less serious than the harm done by real arrows. Many cases have shown that victims suffer severe emotional blow, while some are even driven to suicide!

The behaviour of Gongsun Zidu 2 700 years ago is still rejected and despised by modern society. Nowadays if someone uses the Internet to 'stab others in the back', can you guess whether they have to bear the consequences?

The one who hurts others for venting anger or flaunting superiority not only makes others hurt, but also bears the criminal responsibility for these despicable acts eventually.

Well, that's it for today. Your class teacher will later give you a worksheet for further discussion and reflection.

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Example of Short Speech for Morning Assembly

“Cyber-bullying – Stabbing Others in the Back” Worksheet

Name of student : _____ Date : _____

Class : _____ (No. : _____)

(A) Story review

1. Two generals, Ying Shukao and Gongsun Zidu, are involved in the story “Stabbing Others in the Back”. Who actually attacked someone in the back?

Answer :

2. What are the consequences of “stabbing others in the back”?

Answer :

3. Although the story happened over 2 700 years ago, how do people nowadays judge the person who “stabs others in the back”?

Answer :

(B) My reflection

1. Have you ever been “stabbed in the back” (for example, being defamed, isolated or bullied on the Internet)? If you have, please share your experience and feelings and how you handled the incident.

Answer :

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2. What would you do if you witnessed a classmate being teased, defamed or isolated?

Answer :

3. How can you stay calm when you dislike someone or have a dispute with someone?

Answer :

4. How can we solve problems without hurting other people?

Answer :

5. Who can give you good advice when you need help?

Answer :

(The end)