

## The Pout-Pout Fish and the Bully-Bully Shark

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### Discussion questions

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- 1) In the beginning of the story, Mr. Fish and all his friends were having fun and feeling welcome. What do you think was going on that made them all feel welcome?
- 2) When Mr. Shark comes into the story, what are some of the things he did that were not okay? How do you think Mr. Shark felt when he was behaving badly? What could he have done instead?
- 3) How do you think Mr. Fish felt when he saw other fish being bullied?
- 4) How do you think the targets of Mr. Shark's bullying felt?
- 5) In the beginning of the story, Mr. Fish thinks he's not strong enough to do anything about bullying. Why do you think he felt that way?
- 6) What do you think Mr. Fish meant when he said, "Words can make a difference when things go wrong. Yes, I'm just one fish, but my voice is strong." Does that mean he knows how to yell loudly, or does that mean something else?
- 7) Mr. Fish knew there was something he could do to help his friends who were being bullied. He could use his voice! There are a lot of ways Mr. Fish could help someone who is being bullied. What are some other things he could do? Could he go swim next to them? Could he go get help? Who else could he have talked to?
- 8) What do you think Mr. Fish meant when he said to Mr. Shark, "Bully isn't who you are, but it is what you have done."
- 9) Once Mr. Fish talked with Mr. Shark about playing nicely and treating others with respect, the story goes on to say that "Together they were stronger." Why do you think that is?
- 10) In the story it says Mr. Fish and his friends were laughing and having fun, "Taking turns and using empathy." What does empathy mean? How can empathy help Mr. Fish and his friends share the park? What are some ways to practice empathy?
- 11) At the end of the story, Mr. Fish and his friends come up with three rules for their park: **1) Be kind, 2) Be fair, 3) If something goes wrong, speak up.** Do you think these rules helped Mr. Fish and his friends prevent bullying? Do you think these rules could be used in your classroom or school? Are there other places they might be helpful?
- 12) Thinking about Mr. Fish and all of his friends, what do you think **YOU** will do to help end bullying?

*Discussion questions developed by Deborah Diesen and PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center.*