

Turn Down the Dial on Cyberbullying and Online Cruelty



* DID YOU KNOW ...

More than half of teens think that cyberbullying is a **SERIOUS** problem. Most teens also think that cyberbullying is easier to get away with than in-person bullying.

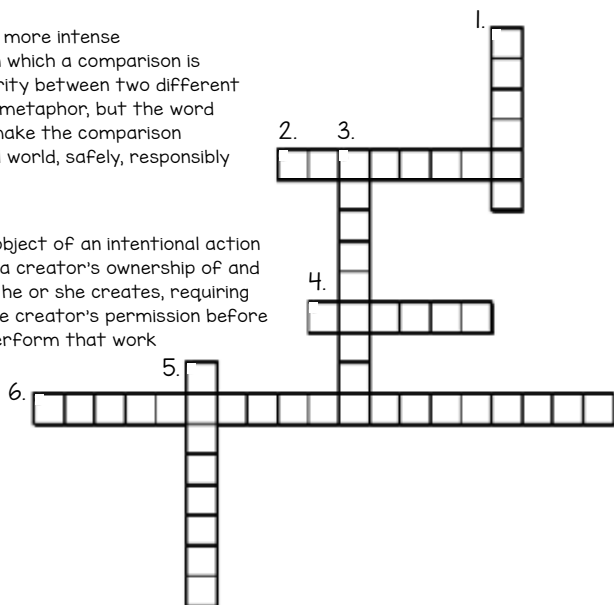
Crossword Puzzle

Across:

- 2. to increase or make more intense
- 4. a figure of speech in which a comparison is made to show a similarity between two different things. It resembles a metaphor, but the word 'like' or 'as' is used to make the comparison
- 6. navigating the digital world, safely, responsibly and ethically

Down:

- 1. a person who is the object of an intentional action
- 3. a law that protects a creator's ownership of and control over the work he or she creates, requiring other people to get the creator's permission before they copy, share, or perform that work
- 5. the ability to use a small amount of someone's creative work without permission, but only in certain ways



* WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Why is it important to be an upstander rather than a bystander?

1. Family Activity

Camille was home sick from school watching a movie when she looked down at her phone and saw her screen filled with text messages written in capital letters and punctuated with exclamation points: "I hate you!!! How could you?!" Camille panicked: She had no idea why she was receiving the flood of vicious text messages. She frantically texted two of her friends, but both were in class, and her calls went to voicemail. A few hours later, Camille pieced together what had happened. Someone had hacked onto her best friend's Facebook page, acting as her, and sent perverted messages to her best friend's boyfriend. Her best friend was furious and convinced it was Camille, since Camille was the only person who had her password. Camille hadn't been at school to defend herself, so their other friends had already heard about the incident and were mad at Camille too.

* DO YOU REMEMBER ...

What factors intensify cyberbullying and online cruelty and what you can do to lessen them?

2. Think Out Loud!

- ~ What is your immediate reaction to this situation? What seems realistic or unrealistic?
- ~ Would you consider Camille's experience a case of "cyberbullying"? Why, or why not?
- ~ How do you think Camille felt when she saw her phone? What might she have been thinking?
- ~ What can Camille do to explain to her friends that it wasn't her?
- ~ Why might Camille have had her best friend's password in the first place?

3. Common Sense Says ...

One of the easiest ways to keep yourself safe online and protect yourself against bullying? Make sure not to share your passwords with anyone, even if you totally trust him or her (the person might unintentionally do something that puts you or your information at risk). * Create a password that is unique but also memorable -- and change your password regularly. (*Parents are an exception to this rule.)

