

Year 7 & 8 Category Highly Commended

Bullying-Not a Spectator Sport

Alara Huseyin - Hobart City High School

Bullying is not a spectator sport,
Don't just let it happen and not report.
Would you help if it was your sister, your mother,
Why because it's me do you not even bother?
What matters to me is that you don't stand idly by.
Cast aside like an unwanted toy,
Slowly away washes the joy.
People look the other way,
Students just laugh along, too frightened to be seen as the odd one out.
The leader starts a vote on who hates me,
I can do nothing but lower my eyes as the hands raise.
What would you have done if you were there?
Would you have stood quietly and lifted your hand so they wouldn't turn on you?
Would you follow them and watch me helpless,
Or would you stop the cruel actions they commit?
Don't stand idly by.
Do you think a sorry letter healed the wounds?
Actions show more than your sorry letter proves.
You ostracised, damaged my property and attacked with your words,
Got others to join in and make it worse.
To those who were strong enough to look me in the eye, deny and lie,
Pretend they hadn't heard and didn't know the who, when or why.
To put the blame on me and not deal with the bullying right in front of your eyes,
Next time,
Don't stand idly by.
People come across a fake profile set up online to purposefully hurt someone and repost instead of reporting.
They follow and share.
Why do they add to the pain?
They watch another person buckle under the strain.
Another keyboard warrior hiding behind a screen.
Don't stand idly by.
You can put up your stickers and wear the right colour to support the anti-bullying campaigns,
But if you don't stand up instead of standing by, what difference does all the awareness make?
Without their bystanders, bullies are nothing,
So, if you see it, call it out.
Practice what you preach with your anti-bullying armband.
Don't stand idly by.
High school stepped actions up to another level.
Verbal pain escalated to threats of physical violence,
But this time, people didn't watch in silence.
Friends came to provide back-up, not caring about consequences or popularity.
Teachers made a plan, believed me and made a stand.
They didn't stand idly by and that is what matters to me.
Helping is like an arm of protection,
And over time, we can make that arm a shield.
To the people who defend the traumatised and threatened along the way,
You are the difference.
The ones who weren't willing to stand back and watch me cry, watch me crumble and want to die,
You are the people that can save a life.
You are what matters to me. You are the power, not the spectators, you don't stand idly by.