

Name _____

Date _____



The Power of Words



Rani and Aruna rush home after school many days to play on their favorite Web site. The Web site has games, chat, and messaging for kids. Their parents let them play on the site, but Rani and Aruna haven't told their parents that every day for two weeks they see messages to them that are mean.

"I hate you!"

"You are ruining the game!"

"You are so stupid."

"You are fat."

"I am going to beat you up."

What's the Problem?

How do you think Rani and Aruna feel when they read those messages?

How would you feel if you knew every time you logged on to play your favorite game, you might get messages like these?

Think About It

There is an expression that says, "Sticks and stones can break your bones, but words will never hurt you." But is it true? Sometimes words can hurt horribly, too. They can make you feel frustrated, angry, sad, or scared.

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Kids like to go online and use cell phones to e-mail, chat, watch videos, send messages, play games, and do homework. But sometimes the language can get mean or scary. When it's repeated over and over, that's *cyberbullying*.

Find Solutions!

Should Rani and Aruna have to put up with these messages? There are many ways they could choose to solve this problem. Brainstorm some actions they could take. Decide which one is best and most fair. Then try a role play to practice your solution.

Take Action!

Create a Cartoon What can you do when you get angry? Make a cartoon below to show how you can handle it when someone makes you angry online. For example, you could stop and take slow, deep breaths. Or you could count backward from ten. Cut out your cartoon and take it home to hang up next to your computer.



Be Cyber**Smart!**[®]

- If you get upset, block the bully and get offline.
- If you wouldn't say something to a person's face, don't say it online.
- Tell your parents or another trusted adult when you or someone else is being cyberbullied.
- Don't share passwords with anyone except your parents or guardian.

A large rectangular area enclosed by a dashed line, intended for students to draw a cartoon illustrating how to handle online anger.