

# Don't laugh at me

1. **Connecting.** When we communicate, we do more than use words.

**Make circles of 8 –10 people.** Stand in a circle. Hold hands.

Everyone, imagine your hands can send electricity.

Leader, send “electricity”. Start with one “charge.”

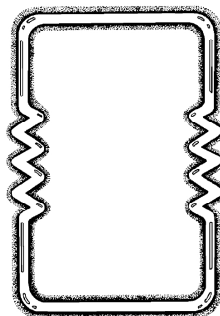
Partners, pass it one.

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Now “change the signal” (● ●●). Partners, send the message.

Now, play. Change the message. Say: *New message.*

Change directions. Say: *Reverse!*



## 2. Sad and happy.

• **Stories from your teacher.**

Your teacher will tell you two true stories from school experience.

Listen. What is the same or different from your experience?

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## 3. Two stories in your mind.

Think of a time you were very happy at school.

It is probably is a time you felt successful and cared for.

You knew you were a valuable person.

How would you explain the experience? Answer the WH-questions.

*Who?*

*What?*

*When?*

*Where?*

*How?*

*Why?*

*What happened next?*

Now think of a bad experience. It could be you or someone you know.

Examples: *bullying, gossip, lies*

*Who?*

*What?*

*When?*

*Where?*

*How?*

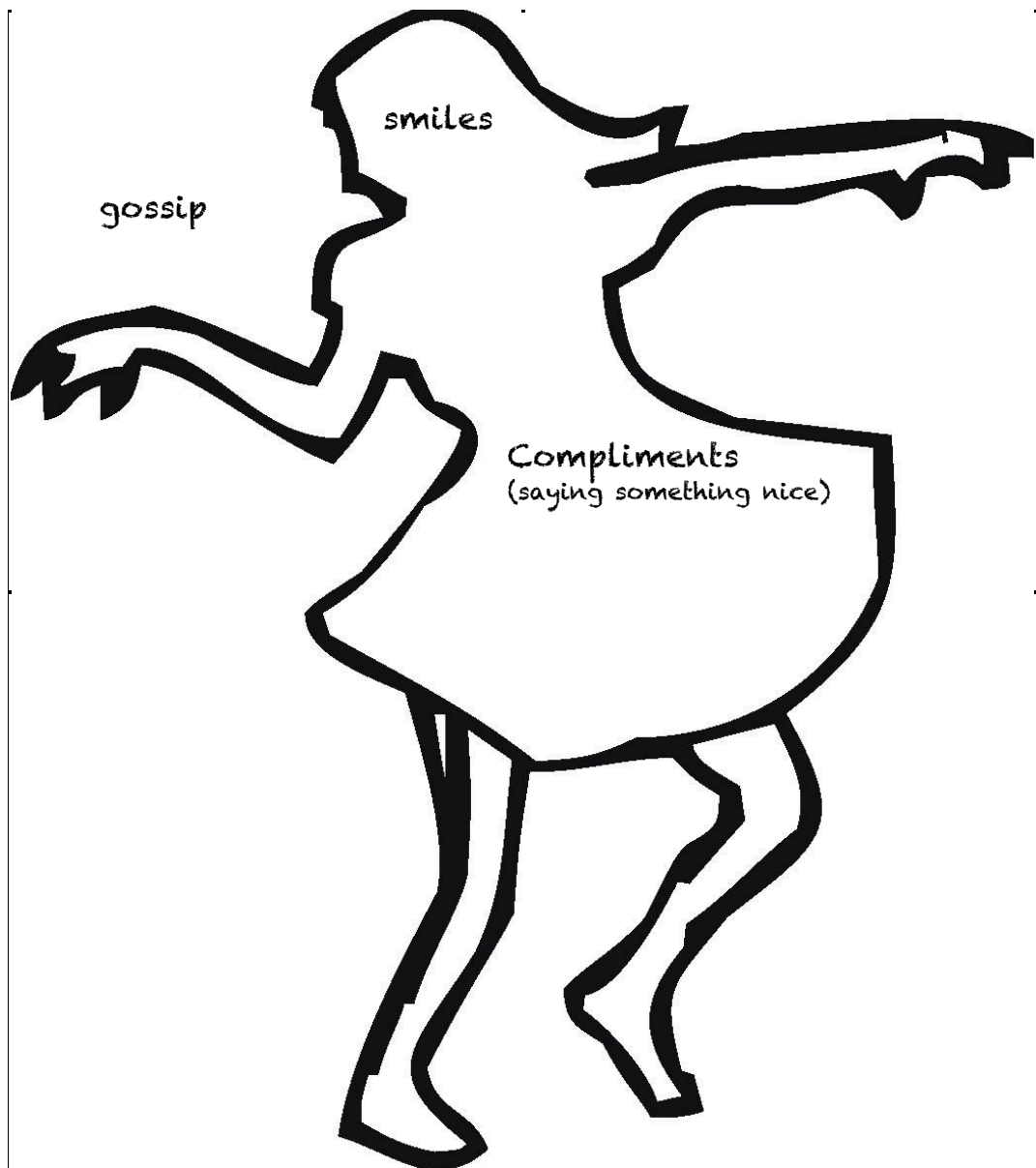
*Why?*

*What happened next?*

**4. Talking time:** Work in groups of 2-4. Tell one of the stories.  
If something is painful, it is OK to change names, facts or other information.

**5. Body language.** What makes you feel good in school? In life?  
What makes you feel bad?

In your group, write ideas.  
Write good ideas in the body. Bad things go outside.



## 6. The song: Don't laugh at me.

① Listen. Enjoy the song.

Circle the images (pictures in your mind) that you like.

Underline the words/images you don't understand.

② What do you understand? Talk about it with your friends.

What don't you understand? Ask you friends and your teacher.



(a computer geek)

I'm a little boy with glasses  
The one they call a geek  
A little girl who never smiles  
'cause I have braces on my teeth  
And I know how it feels to cry myself to sleep  
I'm that kid on every playground  
Who's always chosen last  
A single, teenage mother  
Tryin' to overcome my past  
You don't have to be my friend  
But is it too much to ask



(a girl with braces)

### Chorus:

*Don't laugh at me  
Don't call me names  
Don't get your pleasure from my pain  
In god's eyes we're all the same  
Someday we'll all have perfect wings  
Don't laugh at me*



(a beggar)

I'm the beggar on the corner  
You've passed me on the street  
And I wouldn't be out here beggin'  
If I had enough to eat  
And don't think I don't notice  
That our eyes never meet

### Chorus.

*Don't laugh at me (etc.)*

I'm fat, I'm thin, I'm short, I'm tall  
I'm deaf, I'm blind, hey, aren't we all

③ Listen to the song again.

Think about the problems in the song.

Did you see them in elementary school, junior and senior high school?

What did you do?

What will you do differently now?

**Talk to your partners.**

The video of Peter, Paul and Mary singing this is at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/PPMdon-tLaugh>

## Special Olympics story

The Special Olympics is a sports event. It is for people with physical and mental handicaps.



This is a story from the Special Olympics in Seattle, Washington.

### Read the story.

A few years ago at the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically or mentally disabled, were at the starting line for the 100-yard dash. At the gun they all started out, not exactly in a dash, but with the hope to run the race to the finish and win.

All, that is, except one boy who stumbled on the ground, fell over a couple of times, and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy cry. They slowed down and paused. Then they all turned around and went back. Every one of them. One little girl bent down and kissed him and said, "This will make it better." Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line.

Everyone in the stadium stood, and the cheering went on for 10 minutes.

**What did you think of the story?**

**Choose the best way for you to share your ideas & feelings:**

**Draw a picture. Write another story. Write a poem.**

*The race is starting* (5)  
*One boy falls. The others help.* (7)  
*They all won the race.* (5)

- Marc

**Lesson of life:**

A race can have more than one winner-  
- Curtis

**Share what you made with a partner.**