Stop Bullying!

Kids who tease and threaten others are bullies. Now there are new laws to stop them.

Drew Landry from Maine knows what it’s like to be bullied. When Drew was in sixth grade, he was bullied by an eighth grader. "It was hard to get through," Drew told Weekly Reader. With the help of his parents and school officials, the bullying has stopped.

Drew is not alone. Many kids are victims of bullying. That is why states across the country have enacted anti-bullying laws. Enact means "to sign into law." Some schools already have rules to stop bullying. However, many lawmakers felt those rules were not tough enough.

Maine is the 18th state to enact such a law. The law requires schools to create a plan to prevent and deal with bullying. All adults who work with students must be trained to handle bullying problems.

Tips to Fight Bullying

If you are being bullied, you can do something about it! Here are three tips from the National Center for School Safety.

No!
If you are being bullied, tell the bully in a firm voice that you do not like what he or she is doing.

Go!
Walk away quickly.

Tell!
Find an adult right away, and tell the adult what happened.

Teasing and name-calling are forms of bullying.
No More Bullies!

A bully picks on another person again and again. Many kids think of bullying as hitting or pushing, but it is more than that. It often takes the form of name-calling, teasing, and threatening.

Drew wants to make sure no other kids are bullied. He spoke in front of lawmakers to support Maine's new law. "I helped change the law to help other kids feel better about themselves," says Drew. "The new law also makes me feel safer."
1. Which of the following is NOT an example of bullying mentioned in the passage?

   A  teasing  
   B  hitting  
   C  threatening  
   D  talking

2. The author lists three tips from the National Center for School Safety about what you can do if you are bullied. Which of the following is one of the tips listed in the passage?

   A  finding an adult right away and telling the adult what happened  
   B  putting anti-bullying laws into place  
   C  picking on other students over and over again  
   D  starting anti-bullying groups

3. It can be concluded from information in the third paragraph that

   A  laws are stronger than rules  
   B  rules are stronger than laws  
   C  laws and rules have the same power  
   D  none of the above

4. It can be inferred from the passage that

   A  usually older students are bullied by younger ones  
   B  bullying is not a very big problem in most schools  
   C  bullying is often emotional as well as physical  
   D  anti-bullying laws will completely solve the problem of bullying

5. Read the following sentence: “The law requires schools to create a plan to **prevent** and deal with bullying.”

   In this sentence **prevent** means

   A  to stop from happening  
   B  to talk about  
   C  to tease or threaten  
   D  to encourage
6. What is the main idea of this passage?

A  Those who are bullied can avoid bullying with some simple steps.  
B  The students in Drew’s school stopped bullying him because of the new laws.  
C  Drew Landry is a national hero for his work with Maine lawmakers.  
D  Bullying is a serious problem, and states are taking steps to stop it.

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

States have enacted anti-bullying laws ______ so many children are bullied.

A  because  
B  until  
C  however  
D  even though

8. Read this statement: “There are things kids can do to stop bullying.” What evidence from the text supports this statement? Be specific.

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9. Describe the new anti-bullying law in Maine.

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10. The author suggests that bullying involves many people. Explain who bullying involves and how those people are involved in it.

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Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 740

Featured Text Structure: Problem/Solution – the writer poses a problem and suggests possible solutions

Passage Summary: In “Stop Bullying” the author describes the importance of stopping bullying and new laws that many states have put into place to address the problem of bullying.

1. Which of the following is NOT an example of bullying mentioned in the passage?
   A: teasing
   B: hitting
   C: threatening
   D: talking

2. The author lists three tips from the National Center for School Safety about what you can do if you are bullied. Which of the following is one of the tips listed in the passage?
   A: finding an adult right away and telling the adult what happened
   B: putting anti-bullying laws into place
   C: picking on other students over and over again
   D: starting anti-bullying groups

3. It can be concluded from information in the third paragraph that
   A: laws are stronger than rules
   B: rules are stronger than laws
   C: laws and rules have the same power
   D: none of the above

4. It can be inferred from the passage that
   A: usually older students are bullied by younger ones
   B: bullying is not a very big problem in most schools
   C: bullying is often emotional as well as physical
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In this sentence prevent means
   A: to stop from happening
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   C: to tease or threaten
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A  Those who are bullied can avoid bullying with some simple steps.
B  The students in Drew’s school stopped bullying him because of the new laws.
C  Drew Landry is a national hero for his work with Maine lawmakers.
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7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

States have enacted anti-bullying laws _______ so many children are bullied.

A  because
B  until
C  however
D  even though

8. Read this statement: “There are things kids can do to stop bullying.” What evidence from the text supports this statement? Be specific.

Suggested answer: The “Tips To Fight Bullying” can be used to support this statement. Specifically, kids can say “No!” to the bully. Then they can “Go,” or walk away quickly. Lastly, they can “Tell” by telling an adult right away.

9. Describe the new anti-bullying law in Maine.

Suggested answer: The new anti-bullying law in Maine requires schools to create a plan to prevent and deal with bullying. It also requires that adults who work with students be trained in handling bullying problems.

10. The author suggests that bullying involves many people. Explain who bullying involves and how those people are involved in it.

Suggested answer: Bullying involves not only the bully and the person who is being bullied. It can also involve teachers. A teacher may become involved when he or she receives a report of bullying and may also receive training on how to deal with bullying problems. Parents may become involved when they hear reports of bullying. Next, school officials are involved because they must make rules and enact laws. Also, lawmakers are involved because they have recently been making laws to prevent bullying.