

A Mean Kid at School

Nabil is in the fourth grade. He comes home from school at 3:30. Today he feels sad. His face is red. He isn't hungry.

"What's the matter?" asks Nabil's mother.

"Oh, it's nothing," says Nabil.

"I can see that something is bothering you, Nabil. What is it?"

"It's about school," answers Nabil. "It's not important. Just forget about it."

"No, Nabil. I am not forgetting about it. Do you have a problem in class? Is it the teacher? Do you have difficult homework?"

"No, Mom. It's nothing like that. There is this big kid in the fifth grade at school. He is mean to me."

"What does he do?" asks Nabil's mother.

"Sometimes he hits me or pushes me down. Today he opened my backpack and dumped everything out. And now he says that I have to give him money every day. And if I don't, he's going to do something terrible to me!"

"Who is this person, Nabil? Tell me his name!"

"I can't tell you, Mom! He will hurt me!"

“Look Nabil,” says his mother. “This is not the kind of problem you can solve alone. We have to go to your school and report this boy. We need to tell the principal and your teacher. Your job at school is to study hard and be a good student. You don’t have to put up with mean kids.”

“Mom, I am so angry. Tomorrow I want to go to school and break Herman’s arm!”

“No, Nabil. That’s not the way we handle our problems. Violence is never a good solution.”

The next morning Nabil’s mother drives him to school. They get out of the car and go to the principal’s office together. Nabil tells the principal about his problems with Herman.

“Thanks for letting me know,” says the principal. “I will take care of this immediately. You don’t need to worry about Herman again.”

Later that day the principal calls Herman and his parents in for a meeting. Herman is suspended from school for one week. He also needs to pick up trash during lunchtime. He doesn’t bother Nabil anymore. Nabil is safe at school. And when he comes home from school, he is happy.