



Julie's Journey



Overview

Students will listen to a “happy” version of “Julie’s Journey” and record their reactions. They will then watch the video and record their reactions to her real story to compare how grooming affects teen’s perceptions of reality. Students will review a grooming factsheet, and then create a Teen Tips handout to advise their peers about forming relationships online.



Materials / Preparation

- Video - Real-Life Stories “Julie’s Journey”
- Computer lab or computer hooked up to an LCD projector
- Attachment 1 - Grooming factsheet
- Attachment 2 - Sample Teen Tips



30 minutes



Introduction

Teacher Tip: It’s very important that students don’t know they are going to be discussing Internet safety. It can affect their responsiveness to this activity.

Read the following story aloud to your students and ask them to write down their first impressions.

Julie was a lonely teenager who didn’t have a great home life. She went online to find friends and met Tom. He was older than Julie, but he understood her so well. They would talk for hours everyday and he made Julie very happy. They shared secrets and came to rely on each other. They finally met in person and spent three great weeks together.

Discuss students’ reactions: Were they happy for Julie? Did they think the story was cute and romantic? Did anyone feel scared for her or think ill of Tom?

Explain to students that they just heard a fake version of a true story, and that they are now going to hear the real story from the real Julie. Have students watch “Julie’s Journey” and write down their reactions to the real version.



Activity

Ask students to compare their reactions to the video and to their initial reactions to the story:

- How different were your reactions to the story and the video?
- How did your first impression of Tom change after watching the video?

Allow some time for discussion, and then give each student a copy of the grooming factsheet

(attachment 1). Review the facts as a class. Now tell students that you are going to create a factsheet of your own – 10 Tips for Teens Online. Write this title on the board. Have the class brainstorm ways teens can form healthy relationships online and avoid grooming by predators. You can use the sample teen tips (attachment 2) for ideas if students get stuck.



Follow-Up

Have students use a word processing program like Microsoft Word to finalize the tip sheet. They can add graphics and print it to distribute to their peers in school.



GROOMING FACTS

Grooming is the process through which a predator offers you gifts, affection, and attention in order to play on your vulnerabilities and entice you into a sexual relationship.

Online Predators want to

- » Gain your trust
- » Manipulate you by relating to your emotions and insecurities
- » Influence your opinion about your parents or guardian
- » Show you inappropriate materials
- » Exploit your natural curiosity about sex
- » Make you keep secrets from your parents or guardian
- » Influence and control your behavior

Talk to your parents, guardian, or another trusted adult immediately if someone tries to

- » Isolate you from your family and friends
- » Turn you against your parents or guardian
- » Make you keep everything a secret
- » Send inappropriate material or talk about explicit subjects
- » Send gifts such as webcams or cell phones your parents don't know about
- » Get you to send sexually explicit images
- » Threaten you

What to Report

- » Anyone you don't know who asks you for personal information, photos, or videos
- » Inappropriate or obscene material from people or companies you don't know
- » Misleading URLs that point you to sites containing harmful or inappropriate content rather than what you were looking for
- » Anyone who sends you sexually explicit photos or videos
- » Anyone who asks you to meet in person for sexual activities – No one should be making sexual invitations to you online, and it's illegal for an adult to ask!

If any of the above happens to you or a friend, tell an adult you trust and report it to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's CyberTipline at CyberTipline.com.



SAMPLE TEEN TIPS



- » Keep your personal information private.
- » Use privacy settings to limit who has access to your world.
- » Watch where and with whom you share your personal feelings. A predator could use your insecurities to groom you.
- » Understand that any adult trying to have a sexual relationship with a minor is considered an online predator. It's not flattering; it's illegal!
- » Avoid risky conversations about sex or other subjects that could lead to exploitation.
- » Don't send sexually explicit images of yourself to anyone. You can be charged with a crime!
- » Realize that any person who cares about you would not turn you against your parents/guardians or make you keep everything a secret.
- » Don't let anyone convince you to do anything that would put you in danger. Always talk to a trusted adult if anything happens to make you feel uncomfortable.
- » If you feel you cannot talk to anyone about someone you are communicating with online, you may be getting yourself into a dangerous situation. There are many adults who can help.
- » Never meet in person with anyone you first meet online without getting your parent or guardian's permission first. Meeting in person with someone you don't know is not worth the serious risks.
- » Tell an adult you trust if someone you meet online asks you for personal information, wants to meet you in person, or sends you inappropriate material.
- » Trust your instincts. If you ever feel uncomfortable, tell someone.
- » Avoid spending too much time online. You may be getting caught up in something that's not good for you. You should not neglect your family and friends or other activities that you enjoy.

