

Name:

Day One

Tattling or Reporting?

Part 1: Silent read

➔ Why won't teens tell when something bad is happening? Read silently.

Parents and teachers often tell children, “Don’t tattle.” They want children to report dangerous behavior, of course. But they also want kids to learn to solve their own problems. Children can’t thrive if adults are always stepping in. But small children often run to an adult when they see the rules being broken.

As children get older, the opposite problem develops. Peers become the prime focus. Adults become less important. Many teens hesitate to share problems with adults. They stop believing adults can help. They also may feel that “snitching” is bad. As a result, bullying and acts of violence go unreported. Some teens would rather be blamed than tell on the real culprits. A culture of “no tattling” means bullies can do what they want.

Violence prevention experts say communities must come together. When bullying is a problem at school, students cannot stop it on their own. Adults cannot stop it on their own. Both groups need to trust each other. Students need to report unsafe behavior. It’s critical that adults act when they hear about threats or bullying.

However, many communities lack this healthy trust. “Most kids say to us that they will never tell a teacher or parent. Kids believe telling won’t change anything,” says one bullying expert. “In most schools, students keep quiet. They have to feel that an adult is going to be able to help.”



Day One

// one minute

Tattling or Reporting?

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

How do attitudes about tattling change as children get older?

What is one reason that students don't tell adults about bullies?

Day One

Tattling or Reporting?

Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Parents and teachers often tell children, / “Don’t tattle.” // They want children to report dangerous behavior, / of course. // But they also want kids / to learn to solve their own problems. // Children can’t thrive / if adults are always stepping in. // But small children often run to an adult / when they see rules being broken. //

As children get older, / the opposite problem develops. // Peers become the prime focus. // Adults become less important. // Many teens hesitate to share problems with adults. // They stop believing adults can help. // They also may feel that “snitching” / is bad. // As a result, / bullying / and acts of violence / go unreported. // Some teens would rather be blamed / than tell on the real culprits. // A culture of “no tattling” / means bullies can do what they want. //

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I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.