

**Name:**

## Day One

# Too Much Drama

### Part 1: Silent read

➔ Where does bullying come from? Read silently.

Too much drama! As students move up to middle school, social problems can start. Some students spread rumors, just to feel important. Others talk behind people's backs and use put-downs to make themselves feel popular. With lots of new students in a grade, people are figuring out where they fit in. "It's just a lot of drama," says Kelly, a sixth grader.

Bullying is on the rise. By middle school there is a good chance you will be bullied. Perhaps someone you know is a bully. Teenage bullies may be popular, but they often have problems at home or at school. The ringleaders in bullying may be students who have been abused themselves. Bystanders are often afraid of the bullies, so they go along with the attacks.

Does bullying come naturally to all humans? History is full of stories of how powerful people overtook weaker people and then controlled their lives. The most respected leaders were often strong individuals who kept others in their place. While history is full of successful bullies, we know that bullying comes with a steep price. Victims of bullying feel helpless. They don't set goals. They live in fear and can develop very poor feelings about themselves. Victims can be affected for the rest of their lives.

Schools all over the world are taking on bullying. With more openness about how bullying wrecks lives, there is hope that kids will get together and stand up to bullies.



# Day One Too Much Drama

// one minute

## Part 2: First timed read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

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## Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why do middle school students get involved in bullying?

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Why do bystanders often do nothing to stop a bully?

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### 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.

Too much drama! // As students move up to middle school, / social problems can start. // Some students spread rumors, / just to feel important. // Others talk behind people's backs / and use putdowns to make themselves feel popular. // With lots of new students in a grade, / people are figuring out where they fit in. // "It's just a lot of drama," / says Kelly, / a sixth grader. //

Bullying is on the rise. // By middle school / there is a good chance you will be bullied. // Perhaps someone you know is a bully. // Teenage bullies may be popular, / but they often have problems at home or at school. // The ringleaders in bullying may be students who have been abused themselves. // Bystanders are often afraid of the bullies, / so they go along with the attacks. //

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