

Lesson 21



Area: Don't Gossip

Title: **The Gossip Web**

Objective: Students will recognize how rumors may change or grow

Materials: Writing utensils
Paper

Activity: 1. Write on the board or overhead one of these story starters and have each student copy the starter on to his/her paper.

A. "Rex got in trouble with his mother."

OR

B. "Jane got called to the principal's office."

2. Divide students into groups of 5-7 students.

3. Tell students, "You will be writing stories based on these starters. Your job is to add one short sentence to this first (starter A or B) sentence. When you finish your sentence pass you paper to the left. When you receive a paper, read what's been written and add one short sentence that continues the story. Keep passing the papers until yours goes all the way around and come back to you, adding a sentence each time."

4. Allow no more than one minute for each paper pass

5. Have each student read his/her own paper and in small groups discuss the following:

"When you got your story back, how had your story changed?"

"How does this activity relate to how rumors or gossip grow and spread?"

Closure: Ask the following question:

"If you hear information about someone that makes you uncomfortable or you think is untrue, how could you handle it?"