

Lesson 22



Area: Don't Gossip

Title: **I Heard That...**

Objective: Students will understand how gossip/rumors can change through time and the negative effects it may have on an individual.

Materials: None

- Activity:**
1. Start with students sitting in a circle (if possible).
 2. Follow up discussion on last week's challenge of stopping gossip.
 3. Explain that you will be starting a rumor and that it will be passed onto others.
 4. Use the following rumor or come up with your own. (If coming up with your own write it down so you can check accuracy at the end. It should be long enough so that it will likely be changed by the time it reaches the last student.)

Sample Rumor

"I heard that a seventh grader was accused of cheating on a math test. His parents are really mad. They'll try to get the teacher fired."

5. Start the rumor and have each student whisper it **only once** to his or her neighbor on their right until it reaches the final student.
6. Have the final student announce what he or she heard.

Closure: Discuss the following questions:

1. "Discuss how the rumor changed during the activity?"
2. "When have you experienced gossip?"
3. "How may gossip be harmful?"
4. "What should you do if you hear gossip?"
5. "How can you stop gossip?"