

Lesson 23



Area: Don't Gossip

Title: **What I Heard**

Objective: Students will generate solutions to a gossip situation.

Materials: "What I Heard" story (below)

Activity: Read the following story:

"In the morning, Sandra, Ruby's best friend, sent a mass e-mail to a group of friends stating that Ruby had stolen money from Sandra's mother. Throughout the day, none of Ruby's friends talked to her, except to call her bad names. By the end of the day, the gossip said that Ruby stole the money to buy tickets to a music concert in which she invited Sandra's boyfriend. None of Ruby's friends wish to spend time with someone who has stolen and lied."

Closure: Discuss the following (or ask students to reflect in their journals):

1. "List ways that you could respond to the gossip about Ruby as her friend."
2. "What advice would you give to Ruby?"
3. "How would Ruby feel if she did not steal any money, but rather borrowed it knowingly from Sandra's mother, fully intending to repay her?"
4. "How can gossip be used as a tool to hurt or "get back" at an individual?"
5. "Describe a time when you have experienced people saying things that are untrue."