

Study Guide For Teachers

David Gonzalez
in
***Maddog and Me: Bullying and
the Power of Kindness***

Presented by
Young Audiences
(866) 500-9265
www.yanj-yaep.org



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This engaging and inspiring mix of wisdom tales and personal stories addresses the crisis of bullying in our society. Through fables, myths, and stories from his own life growing up in a rough neighborhood, award-winning storyteller and educator, Dr. David Gonzalez, offers insights and strategies for cultivating compassion. Available for grades: K-2, 3-5, 6-8.

LEARNING GOALS

1. Preparedness for the core civic and ethical values that young people will need to acquire to be college, career and civic ready, and to grapple with the greater performance demands of the Common Core
2. Modeling core values grounded in values so that young people have clearer visions of the kinds of people they might become
3. Intentional focus and working towards a pervasive sense of community for every student and the caring relationships that foster optimal human development across all domains—intellectual, social/emotional and ethical
4. Motivation to create a school and classroom culture rooted in respect, responsibility and excellence, so that students not only develop moral character, (caring, respect, trustworthiness, for example) but the performance character they will need to successfully grapple with more rigorous standards, (diligence, effort, responsibility, for example)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Most kids have been teased by a sibling or a friend at some point. And it's not usually harmful when done in a playful, friendly way that both kids find funny. But when teasing becomes hurtful, unkind, and constant, it crosses the line into bullying and needs to stop.

Bullying can involve hitting, shoving, name-calling, threats, and mocking, even taking another kid's money and treasured possessions. Some kids bully by leaving other kids out and spreading rumors about them. Others use social media and texting to hurt their feelings.

It's important to take bullying seriously and not just brush it off as something that kids have to "tough out." The effects can be serious and affect kids' sense of self-worth and future relationships.

BEFORE THE PROGRAM

Discuss storytelling:

Storytelling is universal. Every culture in the world has a tradition of storytelling and for some non-literate societies it is the principal way for people to pass information and knowledge between one another and between generations. Storytelling maintains and sustains the body of shared beliefs of a community and thus serves to keep it alive. The children of traditional societies absorb the wisdom, knowledge and love of their culture through storytelling.

Today the storyteller is an artist dedicated to the transmission of these same important values. The storyteller is a master communicator who works to suspend the "real" world so that messages can be transmitted through imagery, sound and emotion. By using language, voice, and body movement the storyteller can infuse the static one dimension of a printed story with the rhythms and music of life. Careful attention is always given as to the content and message of the stories so that they are appropriate to the specific audiences that will hear them. Storytellers are often called upon to help celebrate the seasons, holidays, and ceremonies of our own culture.

Discuss bullying:

Have a cyber-field trip to

www.pacerkidsagainstabullying.org

AFTER THE PROGRAM

1. Discuss how Dr. Gonzalez used his voice, body, words and imagination to make his stories come alive.
2. Discuss how the stories Dr. Gonzalez told illustrate the various parts of the bullying-victim-bystander "spectrum"
3. Have students re-tell one of Dr. Gonzalez's stories.
4. Have students tell their own stories of being a bully, a victim, a bystander.

ARTIST INFORMATION

Musician, poet, storyteller, music therapist, and radio host, David Gonzalez was nominated for a 2006 *Drama Desk Award* for his original production "*The Frog Bride*" at Broadway's *New Victory Theater*. He was the 2010 Joseph Campbell Foundation Fellow, and received the 2011 Lifetime Achievement Award from International Performing Arts for Youth (IPAY). Mr. Gonzalez was the host of *New York Kids* on on NPR's WNYC for eight seasons. He wrote *Rise for Freedom!*, an opera libretto commissioned and produced by the Cincinnati Opera in 2007, and *Mariel*, an Afro-Cuban musical which won the Macy's "New Play Prize for Young Audiences". Mr. Gonzalez' poetry has been featured at *Lincoln Center's Out-of-Doors Festival*, Bill Moyers' documentary *Fooling with Words* on PBS, and NPR's *All Things Considered*. He has created numerous theatrical productions including the critically acclaimed *¡Sofrito!* with Larry Harlow and the Latin Legends Band. His many works; *Double Crossed: The Saga of the St. Louis*, commissioned by the Smithsonian Institution, *As If The Past Were Listening*, *The Secret of the Ceiba Tree*, *MytholoJazz*, *Finding North*, and *City of Dreams*, have been performed at performing arts centers, theaters, and festivals in the US and abroad. David was a featured performer at the 2007 National Storytelling Festival. Mr. Gonzalez received his doctorate in Music Therapy from New York University's School of Education, where he also taught for ten years. He was recently Artist-In-Residence at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland where he completed *Wounded Splendor*, a multi-media theater piece about our responsibility to the natural world. David was commissioned to write a new version of *Sleeping Beauty* which toured to the Kennedy Center and other prestigious venues starting in 2012. Mr. Gonzalez recently recorded and premiered his original version of *The Carnival of the Animals* with piano virtuoso Frederic Chiu. His play *The Man of the House* will premiere at the Kennedy Center in 2013.

RESOURCES

www.storyarts.org

www.pacerkidsagainstabullying.org

www.bullying.org

<http://www.amazon.com/Wisdom-Tales-Around-Storytelling-August/dp/0874834791>

<http://www.wisdomtales.org/>

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/book/aesops-fables/id510955547?mt=11> (free)