



DVD/video reviews

by Lyn Smyth

Stories of Us, Readymade Productions, Not Rated, 57 mins, RRP \$209 DVD/Video including Teacher Resources ★★★★★

A resource aimed at teachers for use within the classroom, these stories speak



in a language with which children can easily identify and about situations they will readily

recognise. Given that the stories were written in collaboration with, and performed by, Years Five and Six students, this is not surprising. Episode One, 'Bullying', tackles the less blatant but far more common and insidious forms of bullying found in the classroom and playground, for example nasty emails being circulated among students, threatening SMS messages, ostracising one girl and inciting others to do the same. Episode Two, 'Belonging', shows the new kid in school struggling to fit in and make friends. Meanwhile, a classmate is also going through a tough time with her parents separating and she is having difficulty discussing this with her friends. Each episode concludes with the 'victims' discussing how the situation had been addressed and improved, good communication being one of the key factors. This is an invaluable resource for senior-primary teachers (a similar production aimed at secondary students is also available) and comes with

substantial notes for teachers and two forms of the DVD/video, one with breaks at appropriate times to prompt discussion within the classroom. The DVD will not solve the perennial problem of bullying, but with open classroom discussion it will help students recognise ways in which they can either modify their own behaviour or assist others who may be having a difficult time.

Themes/Values Communication, empathy, friendship, loyalty, respect. **Target Audience** 9 to 13 years.

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