

# THE POWER OF ONE

**OVERVIEW:** The issue of respect and fairness is examined in “The Power of One,” an uplifting and moving film dealing with new kids and the lessons they bring to their new school and classmates. “The Power Of One” consists of the short stories “Diego’s Lesson,” “The New Kid” and “Kendra,” each with it’s own emotional ‘feel,’ but either separately or as a whole, a powerful tool for teachers in elementary school grades to address the important issue of respect and fairness and engage in a productive discussion with children as well.

## QUESTIONS BEFORE SHOWING THE FILM:

What does the word respect mean?  
What does the word fairness mean?  
If we tease, make fun of, or put down a fellow student, are we showing a lack of respect? Why is this true?  
What is unwanted teasing?  
Should unwanted teasing be considered serious and a form of bullying?  
Why do kids make fun or put down other kids who are different?  
Do girls engage in unwanted teasing and ‘making fun of someone’ as much as boys?

## QUESTIONS AFTER SHOWING THE FILM;

### ***DIEGO’S LESSON***

Why did the kids almost instantly like the new boy Diego?  
How did Diego use his instant popularity to help, rather than hurt someone?  
What could have the other kids done to make Ryan, after he made mistakes, feel better and not worse about himself?  
Were you surprised to see a girl shove Ryan after he made a mistake?  
Would you consider that as harmless behavior or an act of bullying on the part of this girl?  
Why didn’t someone on his or the other team take up for Ryan when he was made fun of for making mistakes.  
Could Ryan have done anything to help himself?  
In your opinion was Ryan ‘making it up’ when he told the gym teacher he was sick?  
How did Ryan feel about himself at the beginning of the story?  
How did Ryan feel about himself at the end of the story?  
What did the gym teacher mean when she told Diego that he might have changed a life?  
Describe how YOU feel right now.

### ***THE NEW KID***

In your opinion was James a popular student?  
How did other kids give James the feeling that he was popular?  
In your opinion, why was Timmy being bullied by James and his followers?  
Why do you think that Timmy was bullied in the first place?  
Could Timmy have done anything to help himself?  
How could other children have helped Timmy?  
What was the turning point in the story?  
What did Timmy do that changed his school life for the better?  
How do you think the ‘onlookers’ felt at the end of the story?  
How do you think James’ followers felt at the end of the story?  
How do you think James felt at the end of the story?  
Why is it harmful to give bullies an audience?  
Are the kids that gather around and watch ‘bullies in action’ exhibiting behavior that is just as bad as bullying?  
How did you feel at the end of this story?

### ***KENDRA***

Why did the kids mistreat Kendra during her first day at school?  
By using classroom time to talk about Kendra, did the teacher do a good thing for her class?  
Do teachers normally take time away from schoolwork to talk about problems?  
If more teachers did this, could this help with the bullying problems in schools?  
How do you think the kids felt at the very beginning of the story?  
How do you think they felt at the end of the story?  
In your opinion, at one point during the teacher’s comments, did her class start to feel bad about Kendra?  
Was the whole class responsible for the mistreatment of Kendra? Explain your answer.  
How did Kendra feel at the end of the story?  
How did you feel at the end of the story?  
In your opinion, what is the lesson in all three of the stories that make up “The Power Of One?”