Robbery and Bullying

Perhaps you know somebody who has been the victim of a robbery, or who has been involved in a robbery. It could be your friend, a classmate, a relative, or even you. But what do you really know about robbery?

**Exercise 1**

Split into pairs and discuss between you which of the following you think is a robbery:

a) borrowing a friend’s pen and refusing to give it back
b) blocking somebody’s way out of a door and not moving until they give you their lunch money
c) taking a classmate’s mobile phone out of their bag without them knowing and making several calls on it before replacing it
d) taking a packet of sweets from the shelf in your local newsagents and leaving the shop without paying for them
e) telling a younger student to give you their football ‘or else’
f) taking money out of your mum’s purse
g) telling another pupil that they will ‘get a kicking’ if they do not give you their bag of crisps
h) picking somebody’s pocket
i) taking a classmate’s MP3 player out of their bag when they are not looking.

**Exercise 2**

As a class, talk about the following and write down your answers:

a) Why do you think some of the actions above are robberies and some aren’t?
b) What is the difference between theft and robbery?
c) What is robbery? Write down your own definition of robbery.

**Exercise 3**

Read Rashid’s story and discuss the following in pairs:

a) Which of the actions taken by Nick and his mates are bullying, and which are robbery?
b) What is the difference between bullying and robbery?
c) When did Nick and his friends progress from bullying Rashid to robbing from him?

**Exercise 4**

As a class, discuss the following:

- Rashid’s perspective: consider how frightened and vulnerable he might feel, and how he might start to think that if he had taken the magazine, none of this would have happened in the first place.
- Nick’s perspective: consider why Nick might have started to bully Rashid. Did he feel angry with Rashid for saying no to him in front of the other boys?

In your pairs, write down a couple of sentences that Rashid might have written in his diary the evening after Nick stole his MP3 player.

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**Rashid is 13 years old.** He loves his BMX, football and playing his guitar. He hates broccoli, Eastenders and going to school. Rashid hates going to school because every day for the last month, Nick Boorman and his mates have bullied him.

Rashid met Nick on his second day at school and they became good friends. It all changed last month though when Nick, Rashid and a couple of others were in the newsagents and Nick dared Rashid to steal a magazine from the shelf. Rashid said that he didn’t want to, and Nick called him a ‘chicken’. The next day, Nick didn’t call for Rashid as he normally would. Rashid saw Nick in the playground at lunchtime sitting on the steps with two other boys. He walked over to talk to Nick, but Nick told him to get lost and called him a ‘loser’. The other boys were laughing. Rashid felt hurt and like he really was a loser, he couldn’t even steal a stupid magazine.

The following week, Nick and his new friends started following Rashid about during break-time and calling him names. The week after that they emptied his bag out in the playground. The bullying seemed to get worse every day. On Monday Rashid went hungry because Nick said he would thump him if he didn’t ‘share’ his lunch money, and yesterday one of Nick’s mates held Rashid down and threatened to ‘give him a kicking’ if he didn’t hand over his MP3 player. Rashid felt he had no option and gave it to the other boys.

Bullying often spills over into robbery. The victim often doesn’t tell anybody about the bullying or the robbery because they are too scared. Bullies can only do what they do if you stay silent.