

Speak

By Laurie Halse Anderson

1. Do flap text as DICTOGLOSS (good tenses!!) guess...
2. Read them p. 3-5

What might she be referring to in “If there is anyone in the entire galaxy I am dying to tell what really happened, it’s Rachel.”

What might have happened that made her such an outsider?

3. Discuss: What is **sexual harassment? Date-rape?**
4. Hand out article “Flirting With Danger”
I read it out loud, Ss listen and may read along but **MUST** keep their arms folded (no writing)
Then fill in gaps.
5. Hand out info-page: Girls/Boys in the Know
Groups: write 7 Tips for Girls/Boys (1 catchy sentence or slogan about each §)

Possible tasks for book project:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make a sketch of her tree as you read. How does it change? Use it in the presentation.• Include other tree symbolism e.g. “Pruning” chapter...p.186..• Movie: Watch the movie, use movie watching tips in bonus material pages (back of book)• Letter to Melinda• Chapter headings: very telling. Choose a few favorite ones, explain their meaning/symbolism• Plot mountain



Girls In The Know

Internet Safety

Think you're safe because you're in the comfort of your own bedroom chatting online? Think again. Keep your identity private. Don't give out your photograph, name, address, phone number, the name of your school, what school activities you're involved in or your parents' work schedule. All of those bits of information can become "clues" for sexual predators to find you. Most importantly, don't meet an online stranger in person. The typical teen who turns up missing from an online meeting is 15 years old and female.

Saying "NO"

Sometimes, sexual assault is the result of miscommunication. For example, the guy doesn't pick up on the girl's nonverbal signs or listen to her protests. Be assertive. Tell him what you don't want to do. Don't be afraid to say "NO" and stick by it.

Sexual Harassment

Flirting between teens is common and healthy. But, some teens have trouble knowing the difference between respectful behavior and unwanted attention. Sexual harassment is any unwanted physical or verbal advance that is sexual in nature. It leaves the recipient feeling demeaned and threatened. Approximately 80% of teens experience sexual harassment. Confront your harasser then report him/her to the school principal or guidance counselor.

Dating and sexual assault

One out of every five high school girls reports being sexually and/or physically abused by a dating partner. If your boyfriend ignores you or doesn't listen to you, it's time to get out. He might not listen when you say "NO" to sex. Move on if he acts overly possessive or jealous, because a bad temper can lead to violence. Date people who respect you.

It's estimated that 70% of all rapes and sexual assaults are committed by someone known to the victim. If someone is forcing you to have sex, use the word RAPE. This can shock your attacker back to his senses. Or, lie. Tell him you have STDs, your friends are coming back, your parents are expecting you, whatever. Trust your gut. Surviving the attack is the most important thing, whether or not you choose to fight back.

Alcohol and sexual assault

You probably know all about the dangers of drinking and driving. But, did you know that alcohol is the most commonly used date rape drug? When you're under the influence, it's hard to communicate what you want—and what you don't. Alcohol can impair your ability to make smart decisions, lower your inhibitions, render you unconscious and make it easy for someone to force you into a dangerous situation. If you're going to drink, use the buddy system and never leave your drink unattended.

Statutory rape

Dating is a healthy part of being a teenager, but things can get complicated when age differences come into play. In Pennsylvania, sexual activity between someone under 16 years old and someone four or more years older is statutory rape. A healthy relationship requires a balance of power. The ability to drive and earn money gives the older person a lot more power in a relationship.

If your friend is raped

Believe her. Listen to her. Let her know it wasn't her fault. Let her decide who to tell and what to do. She should receive medical help. Even if she can't see any injuries, she could still be injured internally. In order for the nurse to collect evidence, the victim should not eat/drink, shower, urinate, douche or change clothes before going to the emergency room. It's a good idea to call the local rape crisis center. It's free and confidential.



Guys In The Know

When the guy is the victim

Yes, guys are raped and sexually abused. No, it doesn't mean they're gay, weak or less of a man. It's NEVER the victim's fault. Sexual violence has nothing to do with sexual orientation. Just because a guy is raped by another guy, it doesn't mean he's gay—no matter how the victim's body reacted during the attack. And, just because a gay person is raped, it doesn't mean that he is to blame for the attack. No one asks to be raped. One out of every six guys is sexually assaulted by the age of 18.

If you know someone who has been sexually assaulted, call you local rape crisis center (888) 772-PCAR (in Pa).

Sexual Harassment

Flirting between teens is common and healthy. But, some teens have trouble knowing the difference between respectful behavior and unwanted attention. Sexual harassment is any unwanted physical or verbal advance that is sexual in nature. It leaves the recipient feeling demeaned and threatened. Approximately 80% of teens experience sexual harassment. Know a guy who disrespects women or tells sexist jokes? Do the right thing. Step in. Stop him, take a stand.

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Alcohol and Sexual Assault

Alcohol is the most commonly used date rape drug. Sometimes, there is malicious intent to ply a girl with alcohol or to slip a drug into her drink. Other times, both people's inhibitions are lowered and their ability to clearly communicate breaks down. Regardless, it's rape unless both people consent. Alcohol is never an excuse. See a guy getting a girl drunk to sleep with her? Step in and stop it.

Online safety

There's nothing private about a "personal" Web page. Thinking of posting pictures from that party on your blog? Would you tape them up on the walls of the school cafeteria? Whatever you post can be seen by anyone with Internet access anywhere in the world, forever. The information is public domain. Even if you delete a blog, saved versions can still exist on other people's computers.

One in seven boys has met strangers from the Internet. That's not smart. Don't let online strangers trick you into thinking of them as real-life friends and don't meet them in person. Law enforcement officials estimate that as many as 50,000 sexual predators are online at any given moment. At night, the number jumps to 250,000.

Saying and hearing "NO"

It's a one-word lesson that every guys needs to learn about sex. When the answer is no, the answer is no. If it's against her will, it's against the law. It's rape. Respecting someone enough to let her control her life is more powerful than controlling her yourself. Being a guy isn't about getting some. It's about respect. Give it, get it.

FLIRTING WITH DANGER

Teens confused by issues of date rape, violence and casual sex

By Karen Eschbacher

The news trucks descended, first in Braintree, then in Canton.

In a one-week period in early February, six high school students were charged with raping four 15-year-old classmates in separate, unrelated cases.

Residents in the communities reeled at the news, shocked that the suspects, five of whom are popular athletes, faced such serious charges.

But shock quickly turned to divisiveness. Lines were drawn between those who believed the girls, and those who blamed them.

Rumors spread, along with whispers about the girls' reputations. Petitions circulated through Braintree and Canton high schools urging administrators to allow at least some of the boys back in class.

In the quiet suburbs south of Boston, it would be easy to write off these cases as isolated incidents. But in high schools across the South Shore, confusion and casual attitudes about sex are fueling risky behaviors most teenagers keep well hidden from adults.

In interviews and surveys, teenagers paint a picture of boys who force sex despite being told no, girls who are reluctant to call the crime rape, and a social climate that encourages victims to remain silent.

As a result, experts and teenagers agree, most cases of teen-on-teen rape go unreported.

Statistics tell a chilling story

- In a Patriot Ledger survey of 527 South Shore high school students conducted for this series, one in five said they knew someone at their school who was forced to have sex by a friend or date and did not report it to police.
- Seven percent of boys in the survey said it's OK to force a girl out on a date to have sex. That compares to only 4 percent of boys who said it was OK in a 1993 Patriot Ledger teen dating survey that asked the same question.
- Twenty percent of boys in the new survey said it is OK or sometimes OK to force a girl to have sex if they are "going together" and have had sex before. Fifteen percent of boys said the same is true if a girl consented but then changed her mind.
- Sixteen percent of Massachusetts high school girls have experienced sexual contact against their will, according to the 1999 Massachusetts Youth Risk Behavior Survey.
- More than half of all rape and sexual assault victims are females 25 or younger, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.



DEBEE TLUMACKI/The Patriot Ledger

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