GOSSIP STOPPERS

"Speak no evil, that thou mayest not hear it spoken unto thee, and magnify not the faults of others . . ." —Bahá'u'lláh

Hey, did you hear what Logan said about Maggie? Talking about others might seem harmless—even unavoidable. You want to know what's going on, right? But gossip and backbiting are like computer viruses. They can spread quickly and cause serious harm.

Gossip and backbiting don't just happen in person. Rumors can spread even faster and farther through instant messaging, e-mail, and Internet chat rooms. Sending mean messages electronically is called cyber-bullying. In real life or online, unkind words can hurt feelings, damage relationships, and destroy reputations.

By not going along with gossip, we can help stop rumors from spreading. When we look for everyone's good qualities, we can stay connected in a positive way.

These kids are receiving negative messages while chatting with their friends. Search the scene for hidden words to complete their gossip-stopping responses.

gossip

Mike: Check out how I changed this pic of Emma—doesn't she look funny?

Aziz: That's not ____. What if someone did that to you? 1

ignore

rude

cool

Adam: Did you hear about Sam and Bella's fight yesterday?

Habib: I don't need to know. I try not to ____. 2

help

private

Layla: Sara said Jake got caught skipping school.

Chloé: It could just be a rumor. Let's ____ it. 4

rumor

sure

Austin: I can't stand Mr. Smith. He gave me a D!

Max: But he's a good teacher. Do you want me to ____ you study? 3

secret

Nat: My parents are the worst! They won't get me a cell phone.

Eva: I know you're bummed. But they've ____ you lots of other stuff. 5

computers

6

Katie: Lily had to see the principal—she's in trouble!

Shing: We don't know for ____. You could ask her about it.

given

7

Juan: I heard you hate Anna. What did she do to you?

Mia: That's just a ____. I like her—I just couldn't go to her party.

talk

speak

Answers: 1) cool, 2) gossip, 3) help, 4) ignore, 5) given, 6) sure, 7) rumor