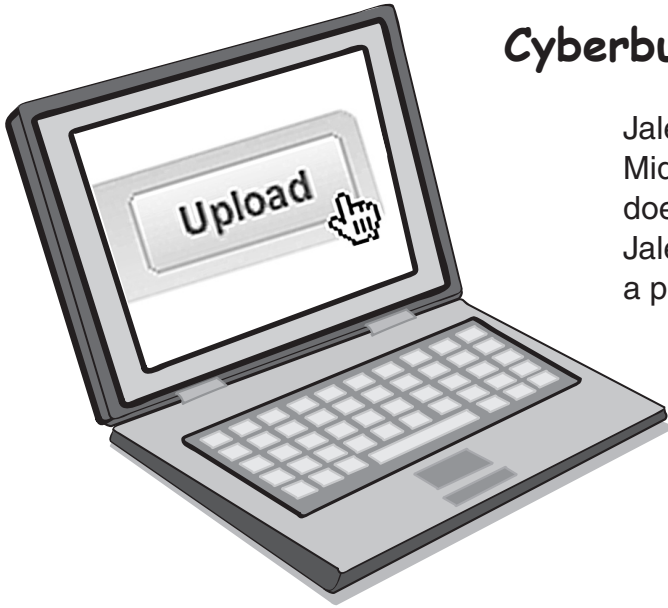Name _____ Date _____

Cyberbullying: Not a Pretty Picture

Jaleesa and Kim are friends at Jefferson Middle School. Kim tells Jaleesa that she doesn't want to hang out with her any more. Jaleesa is angry and upset. She uploads a photo of Kim from her cell phone that was taken at a slumber party two weeks earlier. Jaleesa sends the photo to everyone on her buddy list with a message attached: "Kim is such a ✱✱✱✱."

What's the Problem? How do you think Kim felt?

_____

_____

What might the kids who received the e-mail think or do?

_____

_____

_____

Think About It One day you like someone. The next day you don't. Angry, you say something or post something online. It gets passed around quickly and easily. So now, everybody knows about it and everybody talks about it in school. While maybe you are mean only once, when you do it online your posting or message is repeated again and again as it gets passed around. Meanness multiplies.

When kids are intentionally and repeatedly mean to one another using cell phones or the Internet, it's called *cyberbullying*. Sometimes kids can handle cyberbullying and not get too upset. Other times, it can make kids feel angry, frustrated, sad, or afraid.

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Find Solutions What should Kim do? How would you advise her? Write some ideas below. Then role-play the best solutions, playing Jaleesa, Kim, and some other kids who received the messages.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Be CyberSmart! ®

Everyone has a right not to be bullied and the responsibility to treat others fairly.

• Save copies of bullying IMs, e-mails, or text messages.

• Don't share or allow photos of yourself that could be used to embarrass you.

• Show the evidence of cyberbullying to a trusted adult who can help you.

Take Action: Publish a Glossary Create a glossary of abbreviations that can help diffuse easy-to-misunderstand language. Let everyone in class know where to find the glossary posted. Include commonly used examples, such as AFJ for "April Fool's joke," JK for "just kidding," and RUOK for "are you okay?" Invent your own, including ways to stop cyberbullying once it starts.

RUOK

JK

AFJ

:)