

SUBJECT-OBJECT CASE STUDIES

Case study 1

Benjamin is a new kid in the school. He is a good student but since he doesn't really know anyone, he is quiet in class. His teachers assume that it might take some time for him to adjust to his new environment and so in order to make him feel comfortable they try to give him more attention. Because of this, some of his classmates have noticed this and call him a teacher's pet. In one English class, the students were told to deliver a speech in front of everyone. When it was Benjamin's turn, he was so nervous that he mispronounced a lot of the words. One of his classmates, Oliver, started making fun of the way he speaks. All of Oliver's friends started laughing and eventually the whole class was giggling at Benjamin.

The teacher told Oliver to stop, but outside of the classroom, whenever the teacher wasn't around, Oliver would make little comments about Benjamin to get other people to laugh. As a result, Benjamin avoids conversations with his classmates and hasn't made any new friends at school.

QUESTIONS FOR A DISCUSSION:

- In this story, was Benjamin treated as a subject or object?
- When Oliver and his friends were making fun of Benjamin, what would you have done?
- If you were Benjamin, how would you handle the situation? Would you do anything differently?

Case study 2

Kiara is one of the popular students in the school and she has a lot of friends. Nadine would love to have as many friends as Kiara but she has a harder time fitting in. A lot of the girls in her class go to Kiara's home after school to hang out, whereas Nadine goes home and her Mom usually makes sure she does her homework before taking her to swimming or dance lessons.

The other day in math class Kiara asked Nadine if she wanted to help her with her math homework since Nadine is known to be really good at math. Nadine was happy that Kiara had asked her and immediately tried to help Kiara with her homework. Kiara even said that they should hang out some time.

But during the lunch break – Nadine went to sit with Kiara and her friends and Kiara ignored her and eventually left the table before Nadine was finished eating her lunch.

QUESTIONS FOR A DISCUSSION:

- Who was treated as an object in this situation, and why?
- If you were Nadine –how would you feel?
- If you were Kiara–what would you do differently, and why?

Case study 3:

John, Jake and Chris were at the playground after school. Chris is Jake's younger brother so he is not yet as tall as the other two boys.

John and Jake decided to play basketball and invited Chris to play. During the game, John and Jake never passed the ball to Chris. But, anytime the ball went out of the playground, they told Chris to go get it and bring it back to the game.

Chris was hoping that if he went to get the ball, they would appreciate this and include him and pass to him in the game. But they still didn't pass to him - even though they had invited him to play!

QUESTIONS FOR A DISCUSSION:

- Who was treated as an object in this situation and why?
- If you were Chris, what would make you feel better in this situation?
- What would you do if you were John or Jake?