



"Cool Kind Kid" Challenge

Clingette's Clique

By Barbara Gilmour

"Today, let's talk more about friends. Tanner, Nicole, Rudy, Carmen, Stephen, and Truman the dragon are here. Did you learn a lot about being a friend from Francie?" Everyone said, "Yes!"

"Who can think of a friendship don't?" All hands went up with ideas to share. Rudy started with, "Don't ignore or put your friend down."

Tanner jumped in with, "It's rude to tease, stare and bully someone."

Nicole added, "You won't have any friends if you are mean, nasty or bossy." "Bragging and boasting are like being bossy," shared Carmen. Kids don't like that."

Truman said, "I think it's better to let others tell how great you are."

"It sounds as though you are saying it's good to be humble."

Truman added, "Yes! That's it."

"What do you know about cliques?"

Nicole shared, "There's a group at my school who think they are better than us and won't let us be in their group."

"That is a clique. They think that excluding others makes them seem more important."

Truman jumped up and yelled, "That's so uncool."

"It's also, mean and hurtful and can lead to bullying."

"Here's a story about a girl named Clingette. She was the most popular girl at her school. She had a group of friends that she told what to do, where to sit in the lunchroom and whom to talk to. Other girls wanted to be in her group, too, but weren't good enough."

"One day, Clingette came to school upset. The girls in her group wondered if they weren't going to be her friends anymore. Other kids were surprised that she wasn't so bossy that day. When asked what was wrong, she replied, 'My dad's job changed and we have to move.' Some kids were glad that she was leaving. Most had been hurt by her. The kids in her group wondered what would happen to their special group."

"What do you think happens at the school after Clingette leaves?"

Rudy spoke up, "Maybe another person becomes the leader, and the group continues."

"Or, maybe more kids are included, and they stop being mean," added Nicole.

Carmen shared, "It sounds to me like Clingette was a bully, and we don't need more of them."

"Real friendships among 'cool' kids don't need cliques. The kids in her old school need the 'Cool Kind Kid' Challenge to say 'No more cliques!'" said Truman. Everyone clapped for Truman.

"What do you think happens at Clingette's new school?"

"They probably already have someone who is the most popular," shared Stephen.

"She will be the 'new kid' and may not fit in," added Nicole. Carmen wondered, "Maybe she will see how it feels to be hurt and change how she treats others." Truman said, "I hope there are 'Cool Kind Kids' at her new school who treat everyone the same, with kindness and caring. They will want to be friends with her, but not in a clique." "The 'Cool Kind Kid' Challenge can help them say, 'No' to cliques."

Barbara Gilmour, Tanner's grandma, is the creator and developer of the Tanner's Manners: Be a "Cool Kind Kid" Social Skills, Character Values and Anti-Bullying educational materials and the award-winning "Cool Kind Kid" Audio CD. © Cool Kind Kid. 866-KID-KIND. www.CoolKindKid.com.