



The Stigma of Disease

Read each of the following scenarios. Then answer the question that follows.

When Dominique lost her hair to cancer, she began wearing scarves around her head to hide the fact that she was bald. During a game of flag football, Rosa, a teammate's of Emilia, purposefully swiped the scarf off Dominique's head, instead of the flag stuffed in her back pocket, and waved it around in triumph. Emilia could tell that Dominique was embarrassed for everyone to see that she was bald.

If you were Emilia, what would you say or do in this situation?

Bobby, Todd and Andrew were having lunch in the cafeteria when Bobby saw his classmate Ryan, who was recently diagnosed with HIV, looking for a place to eat.

"We should invite Ryan to sit with us," Bobby suggested.

"No way, dude. I don't want that guy anywhere near me," Todd replied.

Andrew added, "Yeah, what if he, like, accidentally spits on me or something?"

If you were Bobby, what would you say or do in this situation?

Margie's best friend, Lily, was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy last year. Lily's life has remained mostly normal since her diagnosis, until now. The disease has progressed, making it difficult for Lily to raise her arms, so she is unable to participate in certain activities. Today in PE, she had to sit out and watch everyone else play basketball, her favorite sport. During warm-ups, Margie overheard Kelli telling her friend Jamie, "It's so unfair that Lily gets to just sit there and watch. What I wouldn't give to trade places with her today."

If you were Margie, what would you say or do in this situation?
