

Why do kids have to tease?

By Amanda G.

As a person who has been teased, I know how it can make you want to curl up and hide. Teasing might make you want to say something mean or use violence, like kicking, hitting, or pushing the other person. But don't let a bully make you into a bully.

I was born with a birth defect, a cleft lip and palate. My surgeries went well and some people don't ever notice the scars. When I was in kindergarten, my class got to see my memory book with pictures of me in the hospital, along with my nurses, and doctor.

One boy, who came to my school in the fourth grade, never saw my memory book or heard about my surgeries. He would always say to me, "Why don't you get a new nose?" or "What's with your fat nose?"

One day we were playing kickball. He was the pitcher and took forever to roll the ball. Some of the kids and I said, "Just pitch." He looked right at me and said, "Well, at least I don't have a big nose."

The teacher didn't hear him and I had to ask if I could go to the bathroom to get away from his comments. I felt like I might cry. A lot of kids don't like their noses, but who needs to be told daily, in front of others, that yours isn't liked?

If someone teases you, try saying something like "cut it out." If that doesn't work, go to an adult. What did I do? I told my mother, who spoke with the boy's father, and he doesn't tease me any more.

Amanda is a sixth grader at Mont Vernon school in New Hampshire.