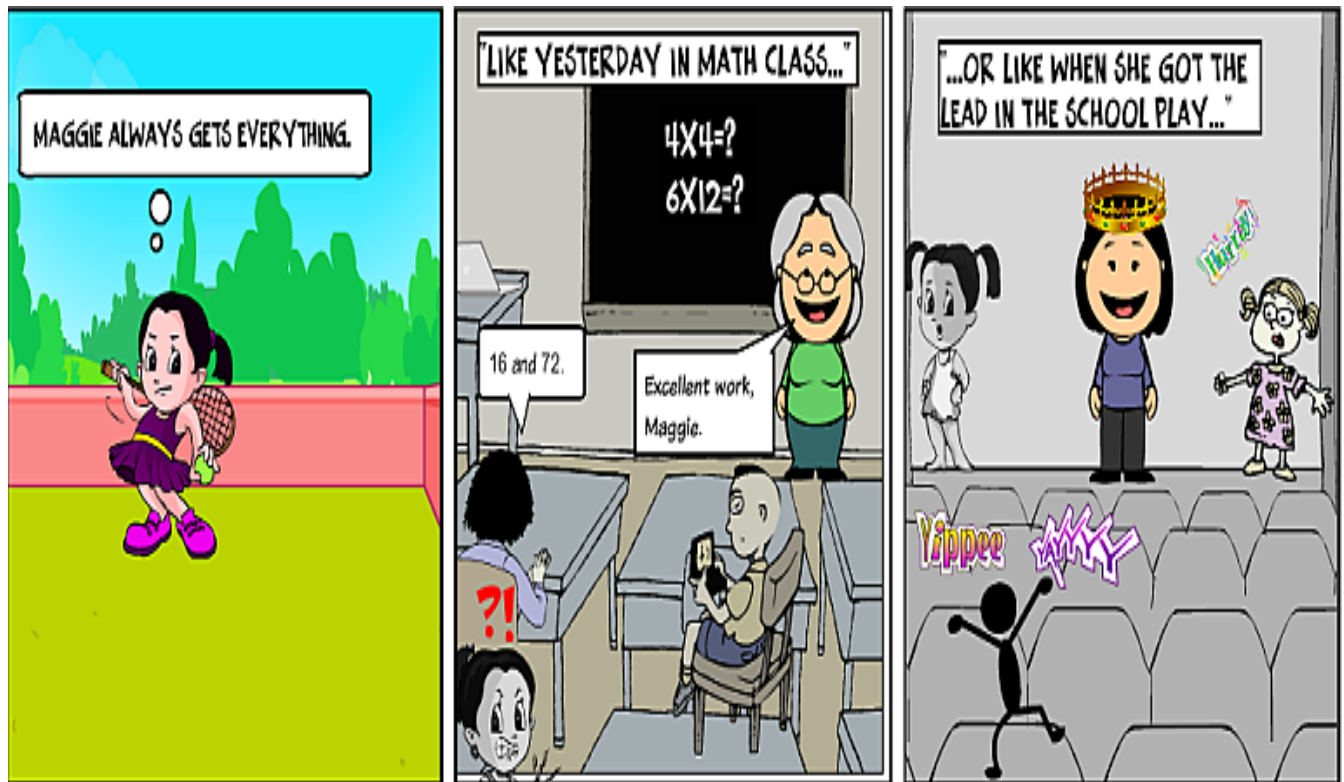


# The cyber story

By Wendolyn Vélez-Torres (comic made on toondoo.com all graphics from toondoo.com)





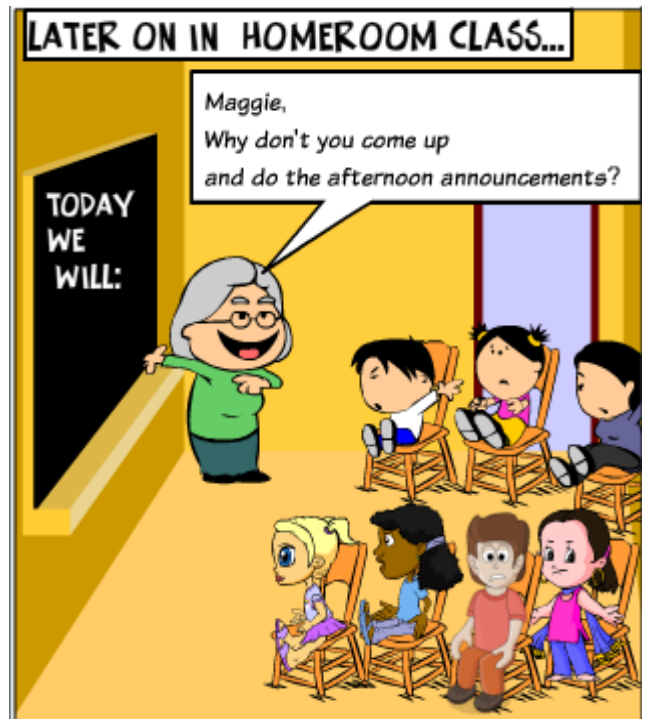


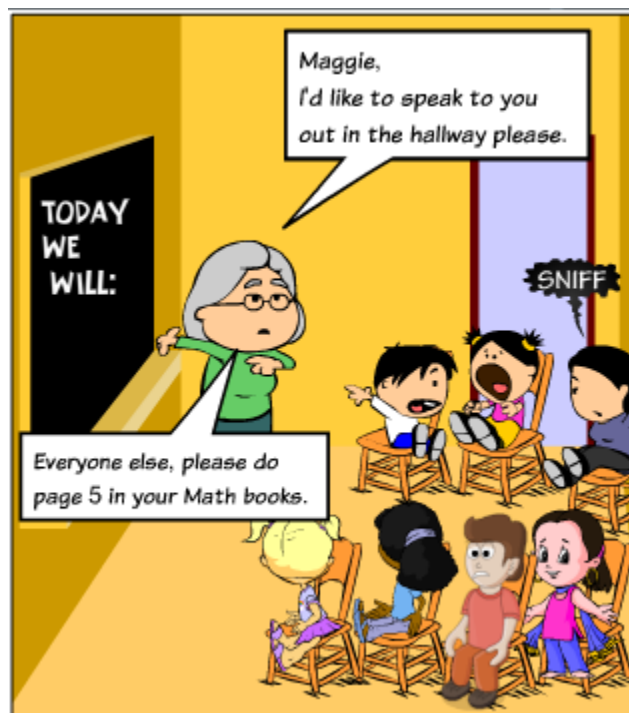
























"When an account is hacked, that means it has been broken into."



"In Maggie's case, I believe she was a victim of 'posing'."



"Posing is when someone logs into another person's account and pretends to be them."

So, you're saying Maggie didn't send those e-mails?

I'm afraid so.



And so Shelby, Matt and Gina apologize to Maggie and return to class.





Cyberbullying is when you bully others online using the Internet or any electronic device.



But, bullying means you hit someone.  
You can't hit someone on the Internet.



"Well, bullying doesn't always mean you hit someone. Bullying simply means that one or more people do something that is meant to make someone feel bad, humiliated, embarrassed or left out."



But, what does bullying have to do with the Internet?



"Well, people communicate with others online. That means the Internet is a community. So, we have to be careful what we write to others when we communicate online."



"That's because words have consequences. With our words we have the power to make others feel good..."

I knew you can do it!

Way to go!



"...or awful about themselves."

Nobody likes you!

Why did you even come to this school?!



"When hurtful words are written they can be particularly painful."

Loser!

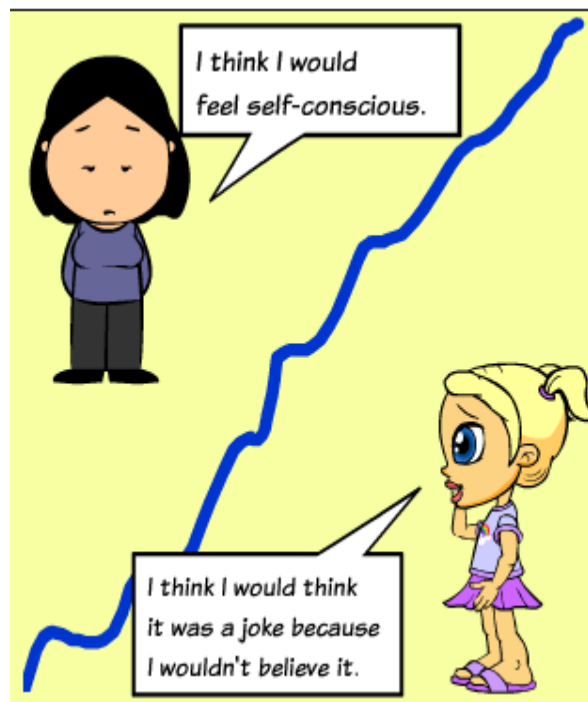
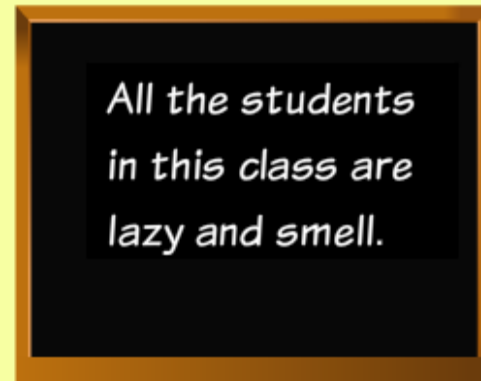
Loser!

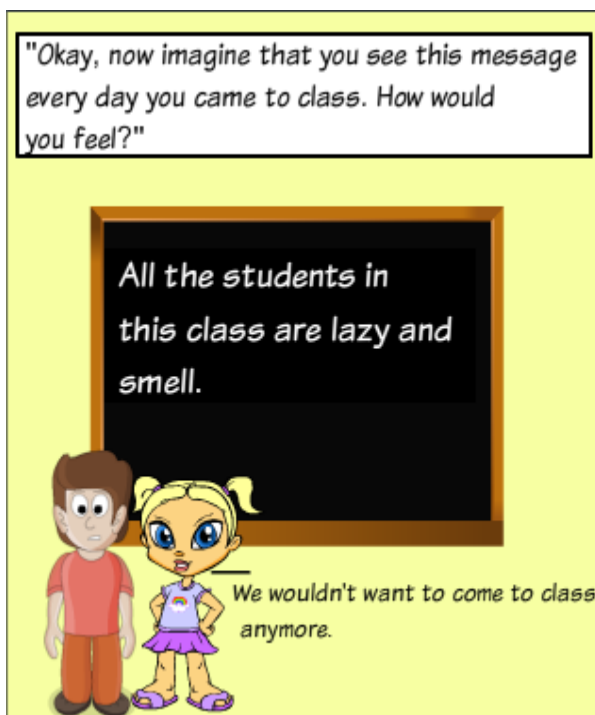
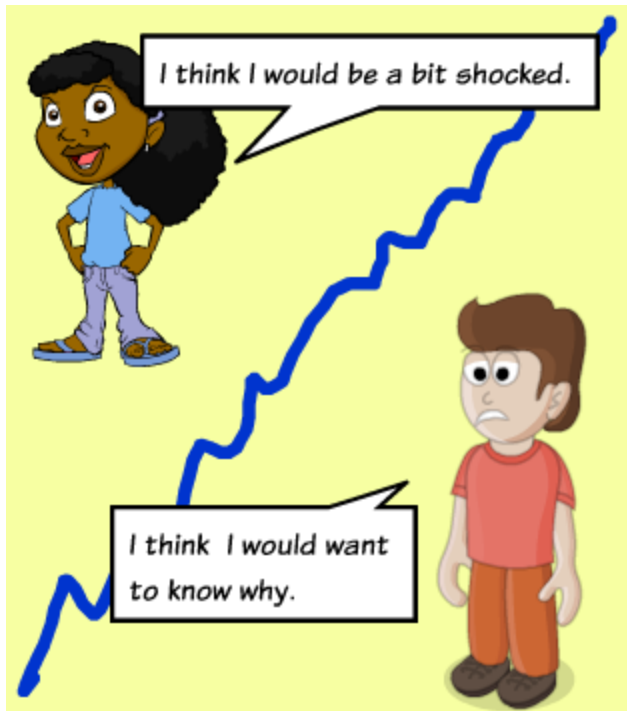






"Okay let's think of an example. How would you feel if I wrote this message in permanent ink on our board?"







"True, you can't see who is writing on the Internet but that doesn't mean you can't find out who wrote or posted something."



"You see, all computers send out a signal when you are on the Internet. These signals are called ip addresses. These signals leave an electronic trail so anything you put online can be tracked, even e-mails you send."



"Can you get in trouble if you cyberbully someone?"



"Yes, you can get into trouble if you do any kind of bullying behavior even if it is online. In some states and countries, there are laws against using the Internet to hurt others."

**But is it such a big deal?**



"It is a big deal because you can't see the other person's face. You can't see how your words made the person feel. If you wouldn't say it to someone's face in real life, you shouldn't type it online."



So, what should you do if you are cyberbullied?



If you ever receive an online communication that makes you feel bad or scared, you need to step away from the computer to calm down.



You should also not answer the communication back. That's what the bully wants. He or she wants to know they upset you. They want a reaction.

"Plus, when you are angry or upset, you might write something just as bad as the person who is cyberbullying you. That would make you a cyberbully too."



It is not okay for someone to try to hurt you with their words, but it also isn't okay if you try to hurt the cyberbully with your words.

