

Girls Just Want to Be Mean

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Overview:

- Article based around Rosalind Wiseman's studies on adolescent girls behaviors towards each other.
- Created an Apology Day at 60 schools so far to get girls to face their conflicts with each other
 - Use apology to insult same person again. Ex: " I am sorry for being hateful towards you, but it is not my fault you are not as pretty as I am"
 - Aggressors usually end up crying instead of the girl that is being made fun of.
 - Manipulative action because it lessens victims anger towards the mean girl.
- Young girls feeling unworthy in groups they used to be accepted in.
- The focus of girl aggression is a fairly new study, all previous studies have been tailored towards boys.
- Researcher Kaj Bjorkqvist found that girls are just as aggressive as boys, but just in a different way.
 - Bjorkqvist found that girls are equally as aggressive as boys till age 14, but then because of social expectations there hostility is quieted into other hateful forms.
- Girls fight with words, wit and body language, where boys traditionally fight with fist and force.
- Secrets and trust are ammunition for girls. So many secrets; can last a long time.
 - Girls use boys to get back at their at their girlfriends, the boys are in the middle caught doing the girls dirty work.
 - Secrets are seen as "currency", ammo on your next victim.
- A big difference between girl and boy bullying is that boys tend to bully strangers while girls bully close friends, or girls that are in their group.
- Counselors are going into schools around the country with the goal to "root out girl meanness".

- Type A mentality is most commonly seen in the top of the clicks/groups, the Alpha Girl. Very dominating and demanding.
- Girls within the group are very loyal to one another.
- Girls are perceiving they must compete with each other for power and status and don't even really know when they are being mean.
 - Upper class girls seem to be more accustomed to the power and thrive on it.
- Following up meeting with girls that participated in Wiseman's studies no longer practice her teachings.
 - One girl was quoted on saying that now when she thinks about the techniques they seem "corny" to her.
 - Two girls agreed that the class was fun and taught them a lot about popularity.

Additional Research:

Girl Wars: 12 Strategies that Will End Female, by Cheryl Dellasega and Charisse Nixon

- Relational Aggression: use of relationships other than physical abuse to hurt another.
- Book is tailored towards parents and gives suggestions on how to help their daughters.

How Girls Bully

<http://teenadvice.about.com/od/violencebullying/a/girlbullies.htm>

- More verbal and conniving tactics of bullying than violence.
- Use groups to gang up on one another, spread rumors or exclude an individual from the group.
- Girls generally will not bully alone.
- The girl bullying is less quick to be recognized by adults. The covert tactics are not a visual as physically hurting someone else.

Prosecutor: 9 teens charged in bullying that led to girl's suicide

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/CRIME/03/29/massachusetts.bullying.suicide/index.html>

- Two boys and seven girls were prosecuted.
- Started with Phoebe dating a boy they did not want her to date.
- Months of text messaging and harassment at school.
- Bullying can go too far.

A Profile of Bullying at School by Dan Olweus

- Argues against Talbot saying boys are still bullying/bullied more than girls.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think girl bullying is something to be overly concerned about, or are we overreacting at a childhood growing pain?
2. Have you ever been in a situation where girl bullying is prevalent?
3. Why would you think that girls feel the need to bully the people that are closest to them?