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Question #1: What are some things you can do to help someone who is being bullied? Have you ever helped someone before?

"You Owe Me!"

"You owe me!" said Tony to his friend, Bryant. They were not the best of friends...AT ALL!! It was almost like they bullied each other. Bullying occurs all the time, especially on the school grounds where there are not many teachers. People usually tend to fight and that is the most noticeable type of bullying. However, excluding somebody or pretending to be someone's friend is another form of bullying. The worst part is that I had to experience both forms at the same time.

Here is what happened to me. This is a story about three boys, including myself. Two of these boys argued a lot and I tried to stop them. Their names were Tony and Bryant (these names are fake to protect the identity of these people which I cannot say). When I was in third grade, my two friends, Tony and Bryant, were sitting at lunch across from each other, even though they didn't want to (let's just say they didn't get along). That day it was the first time Bryant forgot his lunch at home. He then asked Tony if he could have one or two of his Pringles. Tony gave him not just one or two chips, but he gave him the whole pack. "You owe me!" said Tony to his friend Bryant. Those three words created a whole new relationship between them.

The next day, Bryant forgot to bring the snack he owed and was afraid that Tony would be mad at him. He tried to avoid Tony that day so when he got home he could get the snack he owed Tony. I also wanted to avoid not just Tony, but whatever was going to happen between them. I didn't want two of my friends hating each other because of a snack. That's just ridiculous!

The moment was about to strike as everybody was about to be seated for lunch. I tried to blend in with everyone else because I didn't want to get involved with anything Tony and Bryant were about to do. I eluded the situation by going to the table across the cafeteria. They noticed me trying to avoid the brawl that was about to take place. I blurted out without thinking, "I'm very ravenous now, please let me finish my lunch in peace!" That was not the best lie I ever thought up. There were two things wrong with what I had said. First, I never speak that politely. Second, obviously they knew I was making it all up because I was at the scene of all their fights and I could hear them arguing.

Since these were my friends, I wasn't afraid to stop the fight. Tony and Bryant were arguing loudly. I went up right in between where they were sitting and I told them both at the same time, "You are friends and should not owe anything to each other." As a matter of fact, the fighting sounded to me just like bullying. They were just being nice to each other because they were friends of mine. I didn't want to have friends that were mean to each other behind my back. They listened to what I said and agreed with me. Little did I know that they still weren't friends. They still didn't like each other. I later realized they were just pretending to be friends. Sometimes, they even excluded each other from playing four-square or basketball. For example, if Bryant tried to play four-square, Tony would say mean things to Bryant. This was just another form of bullying.

They decided to become the best of friends, and even began going over to each other's house to get to know each other better. As of today, they are two of my best friends in the whole world and they never owed each other anything ever again. In this story, no physical violence was taking place. Luckily no one was hurt. There was no punching or kicking. However, arguing could still be a form of bullying. I am happy to report that to this day all three of us enjoy a great game of basketball and a fun round of four-square without bullying!