



Dear Teacher,  
We have prepared these guides as an accompaniment to our upcoming performance of ABOVE BETWEEN BELOW at your school. We hope that you find this guide helpful in preparing your students for before the show, and in sparking important conversations and written reflections before or after the performance.

# TEACHER GUIDE

## PRE-SHOW LESSON

**OBJECTIVE:** Students will explore a collective definition of bullying and prepare for the Above Between Below performance.

**TIME NEEDED:** 15 minutes

### ADJUST THIS LESSON:

**•IF YOU ONLY HAVE 10 MINUTES:**

Do Step 1 of the lesson, tell students the definition of “bullying,” and assign the activity sheet as homework or independent work.

**•IF YOU HAVE YOUNGER STUDENTS:**

Skip the activity page, and review the questions out loud with your students.

**•IF YOU HAVE MORE MATURE STUDENTS:**

Come up with a classroom Anti Bullying Vision Statement—an agreement the whole class makes as a way to approach bullying. For instance, “Room 13 resolves to help when they witness bullying.”



## WHAT IS BULLYING?



### STEP 1: PREPARE FOR THE PERFORMANCE

*Explore the following discussion points with your students:*

“Have you ever seen a live play before? What is the difference between watching a live play or a movie?”

“Have you ever performed in front of an audience before in a play, choir, a martial arts demonstration, or even a report in front of your class? How did the audience help you perform?”

“Soon we will watch a play called Above Between Below. It is about conflicts between four middle school kids which lead to bullying. At some point, each of the characters bullies another character. Pay attention to how each character reacts to being bullied. After the play we will have time to talk about what you saw and how it made you feel. In a few days, a teaching artists will come to our classroom to lead us in some drama activities related to the show.”

### STEP 2: DEFINE BULLYING

**Ask students what they think bullying means.** As a class, brainstorm together to come up with a group definition of bullying.

**Share a definition of bullying:** Bullying is when a person or a group repeatedly and intentionally uses or abuse their power to intimidate, hurt, oppress or damage someone else.

**Compare and contrast the class definition of bullying** with the provided definition of bullying. If the two definitions are different, try to combine them so that the class has one working definition of bullying.

### STEP 3: EXPLORE ATTITUDES TOWARD CONFLICT

**Pass out the Student Activity Page,** What I think about Bullying. Give students about 15 minutes to complete.