

GIVING A VOICE TO THE VOICELESS

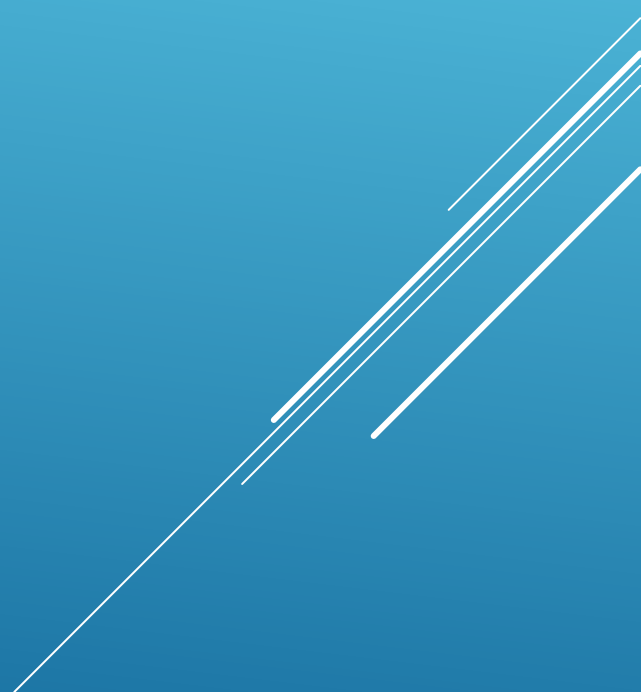
Bringing Awareness By Building Understanding

Seventh Grade Lesson

Greenville County Schools

WHAT CAN YOU TELL ABOUT A PERSON BY JUST LOOKING AT THEM?

Look at the following screen. What do you notice about the students in the pictures.





- ▶ Can you tell anything about a person's feelings by looking at them?
- ▶ Can you tell anything about a person's home life by looking at them?
- ▶ Can you tell anything about a person's struggles by looking at them?



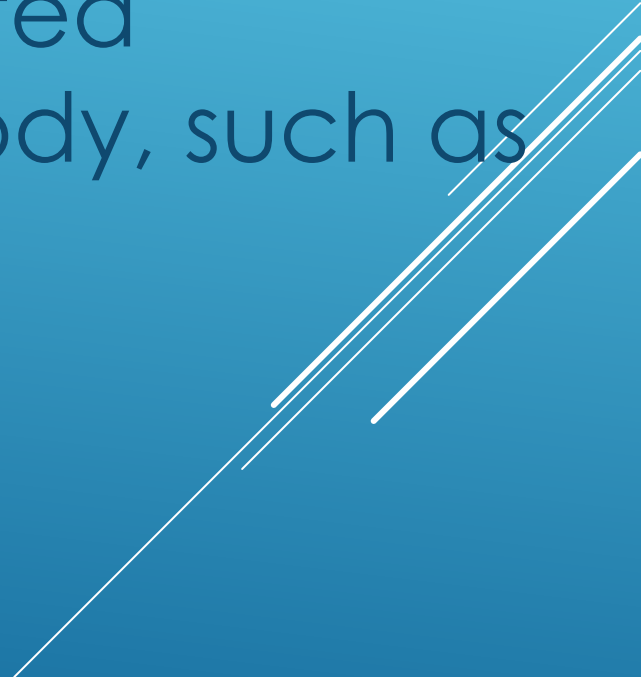
WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE PICTURE OF THIS LITTLE GIRL WHAT DO YOU SEE?

- ▶ Her name is Erin Merryn and this is her story.
 - ▶ <http://www.erinmerryn.net>

THE MISSION OF ERIN'S LAW IS TO GET EDUCATION IN ALL 50 STATES ON THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE. ERIN'S LAW EMPOWERS CHILDREN WITH THEIR VOICE INSTEAD OF ALLOWING SEX OFFENDERS TO SILENCE THEM.

WHAT IS SEXUAL ASSAULT???

Sexual assault is a term that includes any forced or unwanted sexual activity, including rape, incest, sexual abuse, and molestation. Sexual assault includes any forced or unwanted touching of an intimate part of the body, such as breasts, buttocks, or genitals.

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CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

- ☹️ When a child is sexually abused by someone he or she knows and trusts, the child may not recognize he or she is being abused.
- ☹️ The child may be too afraid to tell someone about the abuse or told to keep it a secret.
- ☹️ There are no “statutes of limitations” in SC. *A person can report sexual abuse no matter how long ago it happened.*

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE STATISTICS

As many as **1 in 3 girls** and **1 in 7 boys** will be sexually abused at some point in their childhood.

In as many as 93% of child sexual abuse cases, the child knows the person that commits the abuse. Most are **acquaintances**, but as many as 47% are **family or extended family**.

33% of sexual assaults occur when the victim is between the ages of 12 and 17.

Approximately 30% of cases are reported to authorities.

National Sex Offender Public Website (www.nsopw.gov)

Active Expression Activity – True/False

1. Sexual violence is never the victim's fault.
2. A person is more likely to be abused by someone he/she knows rather than a stranger.
3. Some people ask to be assaulted by the way they dress or act.
4. If a person is sexually assaulted, he/she should keep this information a secret.
5. Help is not available for victim's of sexual violence.

Support. Not Blame. Sexual Assault is
NEVER THE Victims Fault.

What should a person do who has
experienced or is experiencing sexual
assault?

CLASS BRAINSTORMS LIST OF CHOICES

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SCENARIO

NEIGHBOR: I HAVE A NEW PUPPY AT MY HOUSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME OVER AND PLAY IT?

CHILD: NO. MY PARENTS WOULD NOT KNOW WHERE I AM.

NEIGHBOR: IT WOULD ONLY BE FOR A MINUTE. THEY WOULD NOT EVEN KNOW YOU WERE GONE.

CHILD: I MUST ASK MY PARENTS.

NEIGHBOR: YOUR PARENTS ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THE PUPPY AND HAVE SEEN IT.

THE CHILD TURNS TO HEAD HOME

THE NEIGHBOR GRABS CHILD'S ARM PREVENTING HER FROM LEAVING.

CHILD: PULLS AWAY AND TELLS THE NEIGHBOR IN A VERY LOUD VOICE, "LEAVE ME ALONE! I WILL TELL MY PARENTS!"

NEIGHBOR: YOUR PARENTS HAVE KNOWN ME MUCH LONGER, AND YOU'RE JUST A CHILD.

CHILD: IF YOU DO NOT LEAVE ME ALONE I WILL SCREAM.

THE NEIGHBOR RETURNS TO HIS HOME.

WHAT SHOULD THE CHILD DO?

WHAT IF THE CHILD TELLS SOMEBODY AND THEY DON'T BELIEVE THE CHILD?

- ▶ <http://www.safehorizon.org/page/child-abuse-facts-56.html>.

PROTECTING YOURSELF

* From people you know!

- * Avoid situations where you might be alone with someone you don't trust
- * Don't ignore feelings of discomfort.
Trust your instincts!
- * If abuse occurs get help! Later write down date, time, situation and exactly what happened.
- * Tell someone you trust! If they don't believe you, keep telling until someone believes you.
- * Call hotlines for help.

NO ONE HAS THE RIGHT TO SEXUALLY ABUSE YOU!

* What should you do if....you or someone you know is sexually assaulted?

- * Get to a safe place immediately.
 - * Call 911
- * **Know the assault was not your fault!**
- * Do not shower, bathe, change clothes or go to the bathroom so evidence will not be destroyed
- * Get medical attention.
 - * Go to the hospital for evidence collection
- * Seek help and support to deal with your feelings.
- * If it happened in the past... it is never too late to report it.
South Carolina has no statutes of limitations



HELP IN GREENVILLE COUNTY



- ▶ Julie Valentine Center
Greenville, SC 29611
Hotline: 864-467-3633
<http://www.julievalentinecenter.org>

The Julie Valentine Center is a nonprofit organization that provides free, confidential services to sexual assault and child abuse survivors and their families.

OTHER RESOURCES FOR HELP


- ▶ **National Sexual Assault Hotline:**
Free. Confidential. 24/7
800.656.HOPE (4673) www.rainn.org
- ▶ **Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline**
1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453)
<https://www.childhelp.org>
- ▶ **Greenville County Sheriff's Office:**
864-271-5210 www.gcso.org

REMEMBER....

- * **Sexual assault is always a crime.**
- * **It is never the victim's fault.**
- * Ways to prevent sexual assault:
 - * Hold perpetrators accountable.
Report the offense and press charges
 - * Learn how to get help and support
 - * Learn about healthy relationships and boundaries
 - * Support community efforts to oppose sexual violence



safehorizon.org

- ▶ Victims should continue to tell somebody until they are believed and taken seriously.
 - ▶ Sexual assault can happen to ANYBODY.
 - ▶ Sexual assault happens to males and females.
 - ▶ Sexual assault happens in all ethnicities and cultures.
 - ▶ SEXUAL ASSAULT IS NEVER OKAY.
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