

**GABRIELLE E. GOODMAN**

is a sixth grader at North Royalton Middle School.

She enjoys singing and participating in talent shows. She is a cheerleader and competitive dancer who would like a career in advertising or television.

I now realize that some students won't come to school because they are bullied (160,000 in the 2005). This is the day that inspired me to learn more.

I took my place at the edge of the "popular table." The leader of the table is Stacie\*. She has just spotted her boyfriend talking to a new girl from California - Maggie. As usual, Stacie starts off with a comment about Maggie's hair. "Look at the new girl... I guess kindergarten-hair is the style in California." I kind of like the new girl's hair, but instead of saying something, I laugh along with the others- which makes my stomach feel funny. I usually "dump my tray" to avoid listening to her teasing, but I really want to finish my dessert.

Stacie stands up boldly with her tray, "Watch this you guys, I hope I don't spill my soup on her." None of us say anything, even though we know Stacie is going way too far. And then the strangest thing happens: Maggie turns to point at something, and knocks the soup all over Stacie's new Abercrombie shirt! We started to laugh, until we see the hate all over Stacie's embarrassed face.

Stacie starts to hiss, like the steam from a volcano before it blows: "Well, that's not very nice Maggie. I'm sure Principal Lewis will explain that we have zero tolerance for bullying here in West View Middle School."

Taylor leaned over, and whispered, "O. M. G. Stacie is the devil. She's trying to get Maggie suspended." "She's so clever... How did she get so mean?" I whispered back. Without saying another word, Taylor and I knew we didn't want to act like Stacie.

On the bus ride home, three of us from the Go Green Girl's Group (Taylor, Gracie and I) had our daily "meeting." Usually we have environmental ideas to talk about, but today Stacie's amazing meanness was the topic of our conversation. I'm not sure who said it, but we all decided we needed to change our club to, "Go Green, Not Mean." Besides being nice to the Earth, we would pledge to be nice to people. First, we have to make sure Maggie would not get in trouble; and we knew we could accomplish anything together, even visiting the principal's office.

At our next meeting there will be more on the agenda. We will continue to bring our neighbors together to help the earth, and we will also focus our energy on positive projects at school. We will be making Maggie a big "Welcome to West View" card, and also figuring out what other bullied students we can cheer up. We even plan to invite Stacie into our club-if her mind is on "going green, not being mean," she could be awesome!

*\* All names have been changed*