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We've all seen bullying before, but where is the line drawn, and who draws it? I knew a kid in fifth grade named Joey*. He was a victim of bullying. Poor Joey had different opinions on things, and kids thought he was annoying for that. And then Brad* was in his class. Brad was big, tough, and looked angry. He was a bully. I could tell Joey was scared of Brad just by the look on his face. All throughout the year, Brad insulted Joey and used other standard bullying methods. But, it got worse over time. During the summer vacation after fifth grade, Joey was at the pool, and Brad was there as well. He saw Joey and started dunking his head under water. I went to get help, but when I came back, Brad was gone, and Joey was paranoid, hoping Brad wouldn't come back. The final straw was during sixth grade when Brad said to Joey in the school bathroom, "Get in the corner. You're about to be raped." I could tell he wasn't serious, but this was too much.

I was starting to get concerned about Joey. I was worried that if this bullying continued, he might kill himself. I couldn't let that happen. I noticed the bullying was getting worse over time. It wasn't standard insults and jokes about Joey anymore. It was physical. I was too intimidated by Brad to do anything at first, but I knew I would have to do something eventually.

So I went to the principal and told him what Brad had been doing to Joey. I didn't think he cared enough to stop it, so I told him what Brad said in the bathroom. He was appalled. I told him Brad wasn't serious about doing that, but he said he was going to have a talk with Brad. I told him to tell Brad it wasn't Joey that gave him this information, and to keep it anonymous, so Brad didn't come after Joey or anyone else. I'm not sure what the principal told Brad, but it must have been pretty good, since Brad was nice to Joey for the rest of the school year. Maybe he told Brad he'd get expelled if it continued. Whatever it was, it worked.

Now I'm not exactly sure if it's still happening because I moved away, but I'll bet Brad still has to be nice to Joey. It's too bad Joey never found out who told the principal about all this. If he did, maybe he could've been my friend. Who knows how bad it could've been if I didn't do anything? Joey might've gotten beat really bad eventually. He might've even committed suicide to end it all. I guess it is true that everyone has the opportunity to end bullying. Who knows? Maybe someday, bullying will no longer be a worry in schools across the country, even the world.

**Names have been changed.*