

Argument Essay

Bullying is Bigger Than You Think.

According to the CDC, there are 4,400 deaths per year because of cyberbullying (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Taylor, a fictional movie character, could have been the next one. In the movie, *Cyberbully*, the main character Taylor played by Emily Osment just turned 17 and got a laptop for her birthday. Her best friends, Samantha and Cheyenne, influenced her to sign up on a website called Cliquester. It was all fun and games until her brother hacked into her account and made her life at school awful. Also, everything gets worse when her friend Samantha makes a fake account and spreads rumors about Taylor. This causes Taylor to go into a depression, and she almost commits suicide. Although, *Cyberbully* is a touching story about how much your life can change in a short amount of time, the film also uses the characters and events to explore the issue of the impact of online bullying.

One example of a powerful scene is when her brother hacks into Taylor's computer. In this scene, Taylor looks at her Cliquester to find an inappropriate status that has been posted by her, but she didn't post it. After she scrolls for a tiny bit, she notices how many rude comments there are from her classmates. She gets very upset and cries for a while and talks to her mom because she doesn't know who hacked it since no one knew her password. This is significant because after this post she becomes a serious victim of online bullying, and she begins to feel more lonely. This scene does a good job on showing how the victim and bully feels. The victim, Taylor, is very upset about her Cliquester and all the comments that were on there. On the other side, the bully Taylor's brother, thought it was a funny prank, but he didn't know how much it would ruin her life at school. This scene shows how there are many negative effects on the victims of online bullying.

Another influential part was when Samantha made a fake account to get revenge on Taylor. In this scene, Sam uses the name James as an account on cliquester and talks to Taylor for a few days. After that, James posted that she gave him an STD and many of her classmates made rude comments. Also, another bully Lindsey, made a terrible video about Taylor's rumors. This made it hard for Taylor to go to school because of all the mean comments she has to hear throughout the day. This scene shows how much bullies can influence victims. In this scene, Taylor becomes way more upset and begins to have signs of depression, such as feeling worthless, excessive sleeping and is persistently sad. From the bully's point of view, Sam is just trying to get back at Taylor for what she said to her. Also, Lindsey bullies Taylor just so that she can be and stay in the popular group at her school. This scene shows how bullying can affect the victim.

In the end of the movie, Taylor almost commits suicide. In this scene, she has become so depressed that she doesn't go to school anymore and begins to make a video about herself saying, "I am the real Taylor Hilridge and I don't know why everyone hates me so much, but maybe I do, because now I hate me too. And right now I don't really see the reason for trying, or for talking, or for breathing. I'm just done. So that's it I guess. Bye." After she posts this video, she locks herself in the bathroom and tries to drug herself by swallowing pills but the cap wasn't opening, and Sam runs in and takes the pills away from her. This scene does an excellent job of showing how serious the consequences of bullying can be. From Taylor's point of view, she felt

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as if there was no escape from all the online harassment and that the only option was to commit suicide. From Sam's point of view, she felt justified in her revenge because of the jealousy she felt towards Taylor and Scott's relationship. After she sees what her actions have done, she begins to feel guilty about what she has done.

I find that the movie, *Cyberbully*, is very effective in showing the social issue of online bullying. Taylor, especially, shows how online harassment can negatively affect a person's life. In the beginning of the movie, she was only bullied by Lindsey, but after her brother hacks her cliqueter she begins to be bullied by a huge majority of the school. She loses her best friends because they don't want to be involved in the drama. She feels so lonely and almost commits suicide. Taylor does an awesome job showing how much bullying can change your life by putting you in her footsteps.

"*Cyberbully*" used many ways to influence their audience on the negative impacts online bullying can have on a person. Some things they used were showing her decrease in school work, social life and having signs of depression. Another huge way they influenced their audience was showing her almost committing suicide. *Cyberbully* does an amazing job of using characters and events to show the impact of online bullying. After this movie, many people and advocacy groups began to try to pass a bill so that making cyberbullying against the law.