



# The **LADY** of Bullyburg

## Bright Star Touring Theatre Study Guide



### **About the show:**

Once upon a time, there was a small village called Friendburg. It was a very pleasant place to live. Everyone was helpful and kind to one another, and they were as happy as neighbors could be! But then one day, a nasty bully moved into the village and slowly took over, changing the very name of the town to Bullyburg!

When Lady Kindness is about to be crowned Queen, she realizes that she must gather her strength to confront the town bully, even though she is nervous and a little frightened. With the help of her friend Merchant Mark, and suggestions her friends in the audience, she bravely sets off on her adventure. After she encounters the bully and confronts him using the helpful methods she learned from Merchant Mark and the audience, Lady Kindness is able to rise to the throne as Queen of Friendburg!

In the Bright Star production of *The Lady of Bullyburg*, Lady Kindness discovers what it was like to be bullied firsthand. Even though the bully didn't even know Lady Kindness he still decided that he was going to be mean and bully her. Bullying happens when someone hurts or scares another person on purpose and the person being bullied has a hard time defending himself or herself. Usually, bullying happens over and over. Countless instances of bullying come from people being unfamiliar, nervous, or simply uncomfortable. After all, it sometimes seems easier to make a joke about something than truly try to understand it. Whatever the reason, bullying is something we all need to think about. Whether we've done it ourselves ... or whether friends or other people we know are doing it ... we all need to recognize that bullying has a terrible effect. In order to reduce the prevalence of bullying, a change in the climate of the school and its exceptions for student behavior must occur. And even though the curtain closes on the production of *The Lady of Bullyburg*, there should be no "end" for stopping bullying in your school!

### **About Our Production:**

This production is a touring show with Bright Star Theatre. During its run, this production may be seen by audiences in as many as 15 different states! Professional actors join Bright Star from across the United States to tour our shows. In a typical week, they'll perform in 10-13 venues for all kinds of audiences. Our actors travel in minivans, averaging 800-1000 miles of driving *per week*, and they have performed for as many as 10,000 people *in one week*! After the show, our actors are available for you to ask questions about this production and their lives as actors - it's one of the most exciting parts of the Bright Star experience - and we hope you'll have a chance to have your question answered!



# Words to Know:

Theatre is a form of storytelling that has been entertaining people for thousands of years. Theatre has its own kind of language. Here are some terms that actors, directors, and other “theatre people” use all the time!

**Audition:** A hopeful actor will either read, sing or dance (or sometimes all three!) in order for the director to decide which actor she wants to cast in a particular role.

**Director:** The director reads the script, and tells the actors where they should go and what they should do. Each director has a different way of telling a story from every other director, and this means that each play will be unique from every other play!

**Set:** All of the scenery on the stage is part of what is called the “set.” It helps to paint a picture of where the story takes place, so it is easier for the audience to follow the play. For *The Lady of Bullyburg*, our actors use a backdrop, which is the colorful painted background.

**Costumes:** All of the clothes that are worn onstage by the actors are costumes. The dresses, the hats, King Kindness’ beard, and even Lady Kindness’ blond braids are all part of the costumes!

**Props:** Anything that an actor carries during the show is a prop. Can you remember any of the props used by the actors in this play?

**Rehearsal:** Once the cast of the play is set, everyone on the show needs to practice to get ready for the show. This can take weeks, and that gives time for the sets and costumes to be built, and for the actors to learn their lines.

**Actors:** These are the people that you see on stage. They each have a character to play, and they spend a long time rehearsing before they perform. They have to learn where they should walk, when they should talk, and how their characters should act. It’s a lot of work!

**and of course -**

**Audience:** Perhaps the most important element in the show! The audience consists of the people who come out to watch the play. You were our audience for *The Lady of Bullyburg*!

# Seeing the Play:

Attending the theatre is very different than going to the movies or watching television. For one thing, the actors are real people who can hear and see everything that’s happening in the audience. It’s important to know a few rules before seeing a play:

- ★ Please be quiet and respectful during the performance so that those around you can hear what’s happening.
- ★ If something’s funny, it’s okay to laugh!
- ★ If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.

What else can you add to the list?

## Quick Tips:

### IF YOU ARE BEING BULLIED:

1. Always tell an adult. *Sometimes it can be hard to talk with an adult about serious things, so find an adult that you trust - your parents, your teacher, your school counselor, your coach, your neighbor.*
2. Stay in a group. *If you spend more time with other kids, you’ll have others around to help you if you get into a difficult situation!*
3. If it feels safe, try to stand up to the person who is bullying you. *Keep it simple. You might just say, “Cut it out!”, and then walk away.*
4. If you are being bullied online, don’t reply. Instead, be sure to tell a family member or another adult you trust. *If possible, block any more communications from this person.*
5. Join clubs or take part in other activities where you’ll meet other kids! *You can meet other kids who share your interests and you might make some good friends!*

### IF YOU WITNESS SOMEONE ELSE BEING BULLIED:

1. Report the bullying to an adult. *It’s not tattling – you’re helping someone out.*
2. Support someone who is being bullied. *Sometimes the best thing you can do is be a friend.*
3. Stand up to the person who doing the bullying. *Just be sure you don’t bully them back!*

*These tips courtesy of Stop Bullying Now!, a campaign supported by the US Department of Health and Human Services. More information can be found at [www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov](http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov).*

# Classroom Activities:

## Help Lady Kindness Decide What is Best!

Answer the following questions  
by circling yes or no.

1. If someone in your class is super smart, is it okay to make fun of them for being so smart?  
YES NO
2. If someone in your class is a slow reader or has difficult pronouncing words, is it okay to make fun of them because of that?  
YES NO
3. If you see someone being bullied but they don't look sad, should you still say something to an adult?  
YES NO
4. If someone picks on you but they're not at school, is that still bullying?  
YES NO
5. If you're being bullied, is it ever your fault?  
YES NO
6. Does everybody in the world get bullied at some time or another?  
YES NO

Based on the play, remind Lady Kindness of seven ways you can help to stop bullying.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_

## Create a Campaign!

This activity incorporates creative thinking, visual arts, writing, and performance!

1. Break students into small groups. Have students pull out the paper and the crayons or colored pencils.
2. Next, have students create posters with their own anti-bullying slogans. Be creative!
3. Then, have each group write a poem that includes their slogan. Yes, rap counts!
4. Have each group present their poster and poems to the rest of the class. Talk about why the students made their specific choices.

## Additional Resources:

These websites can provide incredible support with bully awareness, prevention, and intervention!

[www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov](http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov)

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services site - includes Tip Sheets, Webisodes, and games

[www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org)

Info for parents and kids on recognizing and dealing with bullies

[www.aap.org/healthtopics/violprev.cfm](http://www.aap.org/healthtopics/violprev.cfm)

American Academy of Pediatrics site

[www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org)

Teaching kits and activities for teaching tolerance in the classroom

## Questions for Discussion:

1. Who was bullied in the play? Who did the bullying? What are some good ways to handle being picked on by a bully? Are there things you shouldn't do if you are being bullied? What ways could your school help someone who is being bullied?
2. Think about this statement: *Diversity is the one true thing we all have in common.* What does that mean?
3. How does it feel to be picked on for something like the way you look or dress? What kind of emotions go along with being targeted by a bully?
4. How are you different from the other students in your class? How are you alike?

