

copy for example

## Article of the Week

Vale Middle School — Roseburg Man Fights to Prevent Bullying in Schools

### Instructions:

**READING CLASSES READ ARTICLE AND COMPLETE 4 QUESTIONS**  
**LITERATURE CLASSES READ AND COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS**

Read the following article carefully and **make notes in the margin** as you read.  
Your notes should include:

25/25

- Comments that show that you **understand** the article. (A summary or statement of the main idea of important sections may serve this purpose.)
- Questions you have that show what you are **wondering** about as you read.
- Notes that differentiate between **fact** and **opinion**.
- Observations about how the **writer's strategies** (organization, word choice, perspective, support) and choices affect the article.

Your **margin notes** are part of your score for this assessment.

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period 6<sup>th</sup>

### Roseburg Man Fights to Prevent Bullying In Schools

ROSEBURG, Ore. (AP) — When Jim Knapp began the seventh grade at a new school, he was soon running home every day when the last bell rang — not because he was excited to be free of teachers and textbooks, but because he was terrified of the boys who tormented him in the hallways. "My very first day of school I was grabbed by the back of my pants in the bathroom, thrown into a mirror and they tried to throw my books into the toilet," Knapp said.

Now, 50 years later, Knapp, a retired Roseburg educator, is trying to put an end to bullying. In 2006, he starting writing a bully prevention newsletter which now has international subscribers via the Internet. That same year he published his first novel, "Bobby's Story," based on his childhood as a victim of bullying. The book has been assigned in classrooms around the country. More recently, Knapp has taken his campaign to Douglas County school districts to raise awareness and prevent the type of violence that still haunts him.

When his family's orchard in Payette, Idaho, went under, Knapp's parents lost everything. In an attempt to get back on their feet, the family moved in 1960 to Boise, a bigger city with more opportunities. But Knapp, an only child, said he wasn't accepted by his new peers and was looked down upon by his teachers because of his family's economic status.

"I had a teacher say to me, 'You will never amount to anything because you're poor,'" he said. His classmates pointed and laughed at his old, worn clothes. Three boys in particular, two ninth-

Notes on my thoughts, reactions and questions as I read:

• Bullying is very serious and should be stopped now.

• Why did the teacher get away with saying what I had said?

• It is a fact that the school Jim Knapp went to as a seventh grader,

# Article of the Week

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graders and a seventh-grader, physically and verbally intimidated him for sport, he said.

Knapp, who was only 11 years old because he started school a year early, said his biggest mistake was never telling anyone what was happening to him. "I never shared with my parents. They were struggling so hard to keep us alive," he said. "They didn't need another problem."

He continued to be bullied until he grew bigger and his tormentors graduated. "I was a small kid until I was 16," said Knapp, who is now just over 6 feet. "The emotions involved with being bullied last forever though. I can still remember being humiliated." Knapp said even though he outgrew his bullies, he never tolerated it happening to anyone else.

His passion for the cause led him to a career in education. Since retiring, he has devoted his time to writing and speaking to teachers, students and parents about bullying. Bullying can lead to depression and suicide and has been in the headlines in the past year across the country. Several teenage suicides have been blamed on nonstop verbal and physical abuse from peers.

In Massachusetts, three 16-year-old girls are being charged with bullying a classmate, 15-year-old Phoebe Prince, so relentlessly that she hanged herself in January, according to The Associated Press. Another teen, 13-year-old Asher Brown of Texas, was "bullied to death," the boy's parents told the Houston Chronicle after he shot himself in September. His family said he was picked on for his small size, his religion and because he did not wear designer clothes and shoes. Kids also accused him of being gay.

Knapp said he always wondered what he was doing to deserve the bullying, and it took him a long time to realize it wasn't his fault. "That's what I tell kids: 'It isn't about you, it's about them.' "It's important for parents to take the responsibility to prevent bullying and prepare their kids to fit in, he said. Knapp advised parents to see that their children dress and act appropriately, he said. "Teach your kids compassion, and teach your kids to talk to an adult if they need help."

Parents should also be aware signs that a child is being bullied include being withdrawn, a decline in confidence, and not wanting to go to school. Glide School District Superintendent Don Schrader brought Knapp in to speak to the entire staff, including bus drivers, about preventing bullying. "He's really helped unify the district and helped us to try and be bully-free," Schrader said.

There have been very few incidents since Knapp's district wide talk, said Schrader, who is also the middle school principal. "We're not seeing as much of it." Knapp also visited with parents and students during parents' night. Schrader said he hopes kids will learn from Knapp's story

*Notes on my thoughts, reactions and questions as I read:*

• It is an opinion that Asher Brown was "gay" as the students bullied him about it.

• The author lists events of bullying that turned out horrible.

and uses quotations

# Article of the Week

Vale Middle School — *Roseburg Man Fights to Prevent Bullying in Schools*

that bullying is unacceptable. "If someone is standing around and they see it happen, maybe they won't just stand there. Maybe they'll stop it or get an adult." Knapp has also made presentations, which he does free of charge, at elementary schools in Winchester, Winston and Reedsport, as well as two schools in Coos Bay and three schools in Arizona. Since writing "Bobby's Story," Knapp has written three mystery and adventure novels for young adults. He is taking a break from speaking to schools to write his fifth book.

*Notes on my thoughts, reactions and questions as I read:*

Creighton, A. Associated Press. Nov. 16, 2010.

agreed

1. If Mr. Knapp visited our school, what would you want him to tell the students? (3-5 sentence answer)

I would want him to tell the students that joking around can be another form of bullying. Also I would want him to tell his story of when he was bullied. He should tell the students that bad words in the locker room or any other places needs to stop. To complete his presentation, I would want him to mention that you should think before you speak.

2. Make a list of reasons bullies picked on Mr. Knapp according to the article.

1. He was poor.
2. Didn't have friends.
3. His old worn clothes.
4. was not very good at sports.
5. He was small.
6. younger than his class because he started school early.
7. He never told on them when they bullied him.

good job!

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3. What message is the author trying to convey by writing this story? Explain in detail.

The author is informing the reader that bullying is cruel and harassing. Bullying is something that no person should be put through it. Some people are fighting to prevent bullying by doing presentations at schools and writing stories about bullying and how it affects a person's life. Prevention of bullying is good and the author intends that people should be more kind and to quit putting peers down. People have been bullied to where they commit suicide or go to school with a gun.

4. The author of this article uses several quotes from Mr. Knapp and other individuals. What affect does this have on the article? Explain in detail.

The quotes from Mr. Knapp and the other individuals helps the article become more important and shows that bullying is completely wrong to do. Quotes give the real life experience to the article in hopes of people will quit bullying. Showing forms of bullying from teachers and peers helps him persuade the reader to make the right choice. You can follow along better with quotes, so the author included them in the article.

## Article of the Week

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5. In what type of publication would you most likely find this article? Explain your reasoning.

This article would most likely be found in a newspaper or on the internet because it is about bullying and would not be in most forms of a magazine. It is not about movie stars or about hunting, or baseball. So I don't think it would be in a magazine. I mean, I really don't think there is a magazine about bullying and prevention of bullying. It would be found in the newspaper if there was an event that someone was bullied to death. The internet always has all kind of stories and information.

6. Interestingly, one school district that was mentioned trained bus drivers about bullying. If you were organizing a bully prevention seminar at our school, what groups of people would be trained and why.

Make a chart.

Who should	The type of prevention training
School bus drivers	To stop the use of bad words and not letting kids be made fun of.
Teachers	need to watch behavior of kids and don't tolerance swearing or inappropriate acts.
Duty teacher	Stopping kids from pushing another kid from the group, Swearing, and fighting.
Aids for special need kids	To listen and stop bullying in the hallways while the special needs kid that they supervise get their books from the lockers.