

SEXTING

SEX PLUS TEXT EQUALS TROUBLE



GUIDANCE SYSTEMS



SEXTING

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INTRODUCTION

Sexting - a portmanteau word combining sex and text - is “the act of sending sexually explicit photographs and messages primarily between cell phones.” A 2010 digital abuse study by the Associated Press and MTV found that nearly 25 percent of teens, primarily girls, have taken and sent nude photos via cell phones and computers. Very few of those teens realize the jeopardy they could be putting themselves in. Sex + Text = Trouble is designed to help teens understand the serious emotional and legal consequences that come with sexting.

The program features three scenarios that deal with different aspects of the topic: how what seems like innocent fun can turn to embarrassment when nude pictures that are meant to be private accidentally end up in unintended hands; how sexually explicit pictures can be used for revenge; the need to take personal responsibility for your actions; the legal consequences of sexting, including possible charges of disseminating child pornography; the consequences of not protecting a computer, cellphone, personal IDs and passwords. This Teacher’s Guide provides thought-provoking discussion questions, a classroom activity, and reproducible handouts to reinforce those critical lessons.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

AFTER VIEWING THIS PROGRAM AND PARTICIPATING IN THE ACTIVITIES IN THIS TEACHER’S GUIDE, STUDENTS WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO:

- Understand what sexting is.
- Appreciate the dangers involved with sexting.
- Accept that anything posted on the Internet is never safe or private.
- Recognize that anything posted online can never be entirely deleted.
- Realize that a silly decision can have long-term and life altering consequences.
- Understand that sexting can involve illegal activities that can lead to severe criminal penalties including charges of distributing child pornography and statutory rape.
- Understand that even pictures they consider “innocent” can end up in the hands of child pornographers.
- Understand the importance of protecting passwords and other information that is posted on social networking sites.
- Realize that sexting can be a form of cyberbullying.



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The program opens with two hosts who define “sexting” – a portmanteau word combining sex and text – which is the act of posting and sending sexually explicit or sexually suggestive photographs, messages, and videos most often using cell phones.

GIRLS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN

A group of girls take nude pictures of themselves which are supposed to be private, but are circulated by accident all over their school. The girls meet with the assistant principal who makes them understand the possible consequences of their actions: they are embarrassed; because the pictures show minors, they could face charges of disseminating child pornography; their pictures might fall into the hands of real child pornographers. She says to always think of the consequences of your actions and understand that anything you post online is out of your control and will not go away.

FOR OUR EYES ONLY

Emma allows her boyfriend Ryan to pressure her into taking nude pictures of themselves. After they break up, Ryan sends the pictures to Emma’s mother. Emma is devastated. Because he is 18 and Emma is underage, Ryan could be charged with child pornography and possibly statutory rape. Ryan has made a mistake that will affect him for the rest of his life. And Emma has to accept her share of responsibility for taking the pictures.

PROTECT YOURSELF ONLINE

When Matt walks away from a computer the school library that is open and to his Facebook page, his friend Nate posts an obscene comment, which appears to be from Matt himself. The hosts remind viewers of the importance of protecting themselves online to avoid all sorts of scams.

WRAP - UP

The hosts return and repeat all of the important facts in the program. (See handout #4).



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- Create a climate of openness and acceptance. Encourage students to show respect for the opinions of others and model this behavior yourself.
- Establish ground rules. Students can participate in formulating the rules for discussion. Rules will vary, but should include some of these general principles:
 - No putdowns, ridicule or sarcasm.
 - Everyone may speak without interruption.
 - Everyone has the right to pass.
- Guard against inappropriate self-disclosure. An intense discussion may lead students to reveal inappropriate information about themselves or others. Sensitivity and vigilance can help you head off such revelations.
- Probe behind the neat and tidy answers. Teenagers are good at telling adults what they think adults want to hear. To find out what students really think, it is often helpful to prolong discussion time and encourage greater depth. Offer a “What if...?”; bring out issues such as fairness, justice, intent or lack of it, and so on. Teens have a remarkable capacity to discern complexities and subtleties, and their discussions can be very rich.



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Do you think most teens consider what these girls did harmless fun? Do you think the answer would change if they thought about the consequence of their actions? Why?

How do you think these girls felt knowing that so many of their family and friends saw the pictures they took? How would you feel?

Did you know about the various laws that involve sexting? Do you think most teens do? Did you know that teens sending pictures, even of themselves, could be open to prosecution for child pornography? Do you think having that information will change teens' behavior? Explain.

Emma's mother said that Emma had to accept her share of responsibility for what happened. What does it mean to take personal responsibility for your actions?

It never occurred to Emma that the pictures Ryan took could be used against her as a form of revenge. How often do you think teens include that possibility when considering the consequences of sexting? Should that be a legitimate concern? Why?

There have been instances where instead of sending sexted pictures as revenge the way Ryan did, the pictures have been used as blackmail. That means that the person with the pictures threatens to send them out and uses that to control the subject of the pictures. Is this a form of cyberbullying? How do you think it would feel in that position? What do you think the target could do?

Why do you think Nate would think what he did was funny? Do you think he would feel the same way if someone did that to him?

Do you know anyone who was the victim of what Nate did to Matt or a similar situation? Did a college admission officer and potential employer see the obscene posting? What happened?

How often do you think teens do what Matt did and leave a computer or cell phone around where others can get into it? Is this a common occurrence? Have you ever done that? What happened?



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RAISE AWARENESS OF THE DANGERS OF SEXTING

Write a Slogan : Divide the class into small groups and ask each group to write a slogan highlighting the dangers and possible consequences of sexting . Allow students fifteen minutes to come up with a slogan. Then have each group write its slogan on the chalkboard. Ask the class to vote for the one they like the best.

Design Posters : Have interested students design posters to accompany the winning slogan and post them around the school.

Write a Jingle : Have interested students write a jingle like those used in advertisements to accompany and support the slogan.

Create a Public Service Announcement : Ask interested students to write, tape, edit, and perform in a PSA incorporating the slogan, posters, and jingle. Be sure to include the laws that apply to sexting in your state.



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TRUE OR FALSE

Read each statement below and decide if you think it is true or false. Check the appropriate line in the left hand column. After viewing the program, read the statements again and put your answers in the right hand column. See how your understanding of the problem of bullying has changed.

BEFORE

TRUE OR FALSE

AFTER

TRUE OR FALSE

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|--|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | Sexting is just another thing to do with cell phones. People make too big a deal about it. | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | There's nothing wrong with taking sexually explicit pictures of yourself and your friends. It's just harmless fun? | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | Your cell phone is your private property, so no one can get into it without your permission. | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | There's nothing illegal about sending sexy pictures to your friends. No one could get in trouble. | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | Things you post on Facebook can only be seen by your friends. | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | A text or picture sent from a cell phone is private. It can't go viral. | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | Your friends would never do anything to hurt or embarrass you. | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | Pictures sent between a boyfriend and girlfriend are private. | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | Most people will honor their promises. | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | When texting and using a computer, it's easy to make a mistake and send something to the wrong person. | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | Accidents don't happen if you're really careful. | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | You have to take personal responsibility for your actions. | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | For every action there is a consequence. | _____ | _____ |



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HOW TO SAY NO

The best way to avoid the dangers and other possible consequences of sexting is to never take, or allow others to take, sexually explicit pictures of you. But sometimes it can be hard to say no and withstand the pressure put on you to give in. Here are some strategies that will help you be assertive and stand up for yourself.

- State your position : Say No in a firm, positive way so the other person knows you're serious.
Don't shout or raise your voice. But don't waver and sound wishy-washy.
- Stop the conversation as soon as you can.
The less talking, the less opportunity the other person has to change your mind.
- Don't give a lot of reasons for your decision. If you have to say anything, say "Because I don't want to"
- Walk Away. When all else fails, call it quits.

Here are some ways that will make it easier for you to stop the conversation, cut off the pressure to go along, and get you out of a difficult spot.

• CHANGE THE SUBJECT

Your Friend: Let's take some sexy pictures. I'll be fun.

You: Did I tell you about this great website I just found. You'll love it.

• AGREE, BUT STILL SAY NO

Your boyfriend: I want to have pictures of you to look at.

You: I know you do – but there's no way I'm doing that. So let's drop it.

• SPELL IT OUT

Your girlfriend: I want a picture of you. Hannah has one of Alex.

You: Well that's Alex, not me.

• TAKE THE OFFENSE:

A group of friends : We don't get why you won't do this.

You : I don't get why you won't take no for an answer.

• TELL IT LIKE IT IS

Your boyfriend: The picture will be just for us. Who'll know?

You: I will.

• PLAY DUMB

A group of friends: Come on. Everyone's doing it.

You: Everyone? You mean like every single person in the world. That's amazing!



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WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

USE ONE OF THE STRATEGIES IN HANDOUT #2 IN EACH OF THESE SITUATIONS:

- You're at the beach and a friend dares you to take off your bathing suit so he can take a picture of you?

You: _____

- Your girlfriend wants to send you a picture of her getting out of the shower?

You: _____

- Your boyfriend wants to take a picture of the two of you that he promises he'll keep hidden.

You: _____

- You're at a party - someone says "Let's take a group shot!" and a few kids start to take off their clothes.

You: _____

- A boy asks you take a picture in the locker room of a girl his friend likes.

You: _____

- Your friend knows another kid's password and wants to write something gross on her Facebook page.

You: _____



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FACTS ABOUT SEXTING

- Nothing sent by cellphone or posted online is ever private or totally secure. And nothing is ever going away. Once it is sent, you have lost control of it.
- Don't take or send pictures of yourself that you wouldn't be happy to show to your family, friends, teachers or anyone else you know.
- A sext picture or message sent from one friend to another can end up in the hands of someone who is not a friend and can be used as an instrument of revenge – for everything from making you look bad, to embarrassment and humiliation, to blackmail, and serious legal trouble.
- Laws regarding sexting differ from state to state. There are penalties for sending nude pictures of a person under 18 years of age, even if the sender is the subject of the picture. The penalties range from a summary charge similar to a traffic ticket to a felony, which can lead to time in jail and registering as a sex offender. If the sender is over 18 and the subject of the picture is a minor, then more serious charges will usually apply.
- If someone sends you a naked or sexually explicit picture of someone underage do not send it to anyone else. Forwarding it could put you in the circle of distributing child pornography.
- Always remember that sexting can result in very serious legal consequences.
- Think before you act. Remember, every action you take has a consequence and that consequence can come back to haunt you.
- The best way to avoid the bad consequences that come with sexting is to never take, or allow others to take, sexually explicit pictures of you. Stand up for yourself and say no.



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SEX + TEXT = TROUBLE

HOST #1

Computers.... Cellphones. Can you imagine living without them?

HOST #2

What would the world be like if we couldn't all stay connected – all the time?

HOST #2

Take these cellphones. They're really miniature computers – you can do so many thing with them. And using one to actually talk to another person is probably its least used function.

HOST #1

You can take pictures, you can text with this one you can surf the Web and stay in touch with your friends through e-mail, I-M and Facebook.

HOST #2

One problem, though, is that we're so used to cellphones that we don't think about what can happen if they're mis-used.

HOST #1

Like if someone turns your phone into a device that can hurt you – by, sending you a mean text or a threatening email.

HOST #2

Or if you, as the user, do something stupid - without thinking, just act impulsively , or rush and hit the Send button before you should.

HOST #1

And we hardly ever consider the consequences of our actions and many times those consequences can be very serious, dangerous or even illegal.

HOST #2

Here's what we mean. So you want to take some pictures --- show a friend your new haircut



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HOST #1

or the cool car your cousin just got –

HOST #2

or the cute guy you just saw at the Mall

HOST #1

or the hot girl you haven't stopped talking about ...

HOST #1

Okay, no problem. But how about if decide to send that girl a picture of youuhm... without all of your clothes on?

HOST #2

Or let your boyfriend get a look at you maybe ...taking a bathor getting out of the shower. Or just send your friend, or someone you'd like to be your friend, a picture of you getting ready for bed.....

HOST #1

Sending pictures like that is called "sexting" – a word that's a combination of sex and text.

HOST #2

Sexting is the act of posting and sending sexually explicit or sexually suggestive photographs, messages, and videos most often using cell phones.

HOST #1

And even if the original idea behind the sexted picture or message is just to kid around or have harmless fun, the consequences can be serious. Let's take a look.....

GIRLS JUST WANTTO HAVE FUN

MARIAH

This is so funny.

LINDSEY

What?



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MARIAH

It's a whole story about sexting.

CHLOE

What's that?

MARIAH

It's taking pictures and then sending them out on phones.

CHLOE

What's the big deal about that. We do that all the time.

MARIAH

Not those kinds of pictures stupid. Sexy pictures. Get it Sexting. Sexy.

KYLA

Like what?

LINDSEY

Like – suggestive or semi-nude – or completely naked. I've heard about that.

CHLOE

That's gross.. Why would someone do that?

KYLA

I don't know. Could be fun.

MARIAH

You want to do it?

CHLOE

Don't be ridiculous. You think I'm going to take off my clothes and let you take pictures of me.

MARIAH

Yeah – come on. Don't be such afrump.



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KYLA

Here – I'll take off my shirt... Take a picture .

LINDSEY

I can do better than that. You can't just be the picture taker – come on.

MARIAH

Okay here I go.

KYLA

Okay Chloe your turn.

CHLOE

Well, if everyone else isWait what are you we gonna do with these pictures?

LINDSEY

We'll send them to each other - not to anyone else. Don't worry.

CHLOE

You promise.

MARIAH

Well maybe we'll put them in the yearbook.....

CHLOE

What!

MARIAH

Just kidding.....

KYLA

Oh come on Miss Frump

CHLOE

Okay – here goes.....



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EVAN

Hey, I like your polka dot panties .. Very cute.

SAM

I never would have guessed. Nice going.

LINDSEY

What are you talking about?

SAM

I hope you'll come and pose for me sometime.

GIRL

I'm not surprised about Mariah and Lindsey..... But you?

BOY

Nice going.....

LINDSEY

I have to talk to you.

SAM

What?

LINDSEY

You obviously got the pictures. They were supposed to be private.

SAM

I guess that didn't work.

LINDSEY

Thanks. But how did get them? Who sent them to you?

SAM

Kyle Taylor.



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LINDSEY

Kyle? How did he get them?

SAM

From Mariah – that's what he said.

LINDSEY

Mariah! I don't believe it.

SAM

Why?

LINDSEY

They were supposed to be secret.

SAM

Well – the secret's out. Nice pictures though.

CHLOE

Okay – what's going on?

KYLA

Who sent those pictures out?

LINDSEY

Okay Mariah – out with it. Why did you send the pictures to Kyle Taylor?

CHLOE /KYLA

Mariah! You sent them to Kyle.

MARIAH

Kyle? I never sent them to Kyle..... I just.....

LINDSEY

You just what?



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MARIAH

Kyle Taylor? I don't believe it. I am so sorry. I never meant to send them to him.

KYLA

Well ,who did you send them to? You weren't supposed to send them to anyone, remember.

MARIAH

I know.. I know. Okay. I sent the picture of me – at least I thought it was just the picture of me – to Kevin. You know the boy I met over the summer. I thought I could start up a ...conversation with him... you know - reconnect..... and I must have sent hit the wrong name and sent them to Kyle by mistake.

LINDSEY

Right – and not just the picture of you – the pictures of ALL of us.

CHLOE

And now they're all over school.

KYLA

You know they're going on Facebook soon

CHLOE

If they aren't there already..... I don't believe this!

MS. RAYMOND

I understand we have something of a problem. Is that right?

MARIAH

It's my fault. I meant to send just a picture of me.

MS. RAYMOND

And you sent them all?

MARIAH

And I sent them to the wrong person.



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MS. RAYMOND

Well, that's not really so unusual is it? It happens to everybody. You hit the wrong key, you send a text message you aren't finished with - or send it to the wrong person - the names look alike - your finger slips - things like that. So you have to be very careful - you have to take your time - think before you act - think about what you're doing. Mistakes are going to happen. So you have to try to minimize them, by acting slowly and carefully - not rushing and doing ten things at a time.

MARIAH

Right. I know.

MS. RAYMOND

But let's talk about the pictures. What was the point of taking them in the first place.

LINDSEY

We were just messing around....being silly.

MS. RAYMOND

And Mariah, the picture you were sending to that boy. Were you nude?

MARIAH

No, it wasn't anything dirty . It was just kind of flirty. I wouldn't send out any naked pictures.

MS. RAYMOND

Ah - but you did. Not just you Mariah, all of you. You sent them from one phone to the other. You put them out there. And I don't know if you're aware of this, but those pictures could be considered pornography - child pornography seeing as you're all under age.

ALL THE GIRLS

They weren't pornographic.

MS. RAYMOND

Maybe not to you, but in eyes of the law in some states they would be.

GIRLS

What!!



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MS. RAYMOND

Fortunately for you we live in a state that doesn't consider what you did child pornography – although it did until recently. You could have put yourselves in serious, serious trouble.

LINDSDEY

That's lucky.

CHLOE

Well we might not be in trouble with the law, but we're certainly embarrassed.

KYLA

You got that right. I am so embarrassed... I can hardly look at anyone in class. Oh no! My brother's going see them.

LINDSEY

I never thought about that! This is awful.

MS. RAYMOND

You have to remember, that anything you put online – send from a phone, put in an email, post on Facebook or any other social networking site - is out there. There is no privacy. Everything is available to everyone. And it doesn't go away.....

MARIAH

It was a stupid accident.

MS. RAYMOND

It was a stupid accident waiting to happen. The problem started long before you sent them out. The problem started when you took those pictures and put them on your phones. Suppose you left the phone somewhere and someone looked through it see who it belonged to. Suppose that someone was your mother, or your father or your grandfather?!

KYLA

This just gets worse and worse.

MS. RAYMOND

And once those pictures are out there in cyberspace they can fall into anyone's hands – a real child pornographer or a predator. How you feel about that?



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GIRLS
Gross!

MS. RAYMOND

Yes it is gross. But it's also true..... Look I'm not telling you this to scare you. I'm telling you this because it's the truth. Think before you act. Remember, for every action there is a consequence. Think about what could happen.

QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION

Do you think most teens consider what these girls did harmless fun? Do you think the answer would change if they thought about the consequence of their actions? Why?

How do you think these girls felt knowing that so many of their family and friends saw the pictures they took? How would you feel?

FOR OUR EYES ONLY

HOST #2

The girls we just saw did something stupid without thinking. They thought it was a joke. It was a joke that back-fired, of course, but they never meant for anyone to suffer from it. And luckily for them, the consequences, while difficult to live with, weren't too severe.

HOST #1

But sexting can also be used as a weapon – as a way to cause someone hurt or harm. It can also have life-altering consequences. Watch....



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RYAN

Nice to have the house to ourselves.

EMMA

Yeah – my parents won't be back 'til late, and Julie's at a party.

RYAN

Great Hey, I didn't show you my new phone.

EMMA

Nice. When did you get it?

RYAN

Last night – a present from the phone company.

EMMA

A present?

RYAN

Well not really a present, but now that I'm 18 I can sign up for stuff that I couldn't get before.

EMMA

Nice. Another year and half and that's me.

RYAN

It's got an really good camera. Let me take a picture of you. Not so good let me take another one. Much better.

EMMA

Show me.

EMMA

I love it.. Send it to my phone so I can have it too. Then I can look at it at night before I go to sleep and I'll dream about you.

RYAN

That sounds good. But if I had a picture of you to look at before I went to bed –and wanted it for my dreams – it wouldn't be a picture like this.



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EMMA

What do you mean?

RYAN

I mean – I'd like it to be a little moreuhm.... personal.

EMMA

Like what? What do you mean personal?

RYAN

Well, maybe you could loose that shirt.

EMMA

Loose the top? You mean take off my shirt?

RYAN

Yeah ---- not much different than a bathing suit.

EMMA

Except I'm not wearing a bathing suit under my shirt.

RYAN

Or maybe we could take some pictures like in these.

EMMA

You want me to pose topless – like them?

RYAN

Yeah – why not. It's just for us. Like I said something special just for the two of us.

EMMA

Ryan --- don't be silly. I'm not going to do that.

RYAN

Why not?



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EMMA

Because....

RYAN

Because why?

EMMA

I don't know – I'd feel funny posing like her.

RYAN

Why? You're a lot prettier than she is. You know you are.

EMMA

But...

RYAN

But what? You're not going to act shy now are you. I know you're not all that shy/ It's not like it's something I haven't already seen.

EMMA

I know – but this feels different.

RYAN

Come on, do it. Do it for me. It would mean a lot to me. It would tell me a lot about us – about you and me. How you really feel.

EMMA

Suppose my sister comes in and I'm sitting here like that.

RYAN

Let's go up to your room. That way if she comes in you'll have more time to get yourself back together. Me too. Wouldn't it be nice to have a picture of the two of us together?

RYAN

What was that about?



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EMMA
What?

RYAN
Why we're you talking to Sam?

EMMA
He's going to try out for the winter play. I said I'd rehearse with him.

RYAN
Why does he have to rehearse with you?

EMMA
Why not? Are you jealous?

RYAN
No.. I just don't like it.

EMMA
Hi.... What's up?

RYAN
Who were you talking to?

EMMA
Jake.

RYAN
Oh now it's Jake too.

EMMA
What are you talking about?



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RYAN

First I see you talking to Sam – now you’re on the phone with Jake. Is there any guy in this school you’re not connected to?

EMMA

Ryan – what’s the matter with you?

RYAN

There’s nothing the matter with me. But there’s something the matter with you. You’re MY girlfriend. And I have the pictures to prove it.

EMMA

Ryan! Put that away!

RYAN

So I think you should keep away from other guys. That’s the way it works.

KYLA

Is that Ryan over there?

EMMA

Looks like it.

SAM

What? He’s spying on you?

EMMA

Oh, never mind. Come on Kyla. Let’s get to class.

KYLA

Is there something going on you want to talk about?

EMMA

Maybe. I’m not sure.



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KYLA

Is it Ryan? Was he spying on you?

EMMA

I think so. He's just so controlling. He wants to know where I am all the time. Who I'm with. He must call me a hundred times a day. He's so jealous. It's making me crazy.

KYLA

That's not good, you know. That's not the way it's supposed to be.

EMMA

I know. I think I'm going to have to break up with him.

RYAN

You're breaking up with me.

EMMA

I think it's the only way. I can't take it anymore. You follow me around. You want to know who I talk to – what I'm doing all the time. I just don't like it. So yes, I think we should break up. It's just not working.

RYAN

It's only 'cause I love you so much --- and you said you loved me.

EMMA

I thought I did. I really did..... But not any more. I'm sorry Ryan. I never meant to hurt you.

RYAN

She thinks she can just dump me like I'm some piece of garbage. Dump me! Like that! ... We'll see who ends up in the garbage.

EMMA

Hi Mom....What's up?



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MOTHER

Quite a lot I'm afraid.

EMMA

What do you mean?

MOTHER

I just got a very ...uhm.... interesting no, that's the right word revealing – yes revealing..... email from your boyfriend Ryan.

EMMA

Ex-boyfriend. I broke up with him today.

MOTHER

Ah, well that might explain it.

EMMA

Explain what?

MOTHER

Well it wasn't really much of an email – the message was very brief. It said "thought you'd like to see these"

EMMA

See these?

MOTHER

Yes Emma --- see these Pictures .

EMMA

Pictures? Pictures! From Ryan! I don't believe this.... I don't believe this.

MOTHER

Well it's true. Emma, look at me.

EMMA

I can't.



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MOTHER

Yes you can..... Emma we have to talk about this.

EMMA

What's to talk about? If he sent those to you he probably sent them to everyone. I bet they're on Facebook ...Knowing him they're probably on You Tube... and who knows where else.....I'm never going to school again. I'm never going to anywhere.

MOTHER

Yes you will – we'll all work together to get through this.....And we'll also talk about what was going on between the two of you that those pictures show. I was more than a little surprised about that, believe me. But that's for later. For now we're going to deal with Ryan. He has no idea what he did to himself...

EMMA

What are you talking about?

MOTHER

He's 18 isn't that right?

EMMA

Yes.

MOTHER

Well you're not. That doesn't mean that you aren't responsible for what happened – for letting him take those pictures. Because you are. Why did you do that?

EMMA

He talked me into it/ He really did.

MOTHER

Maybe he did .. but that's no excuse. You have to be responsible for yourself.

EMMA

I know... I know.. You're right.



SEXTING

SEX PLUS TEXT EQUALS TROUBLE

MOTHER

We'll deal with all that later. For now we're going to deal with Ryan. That young man is in more trouble than he can even begin to imagine.

HOST #1

What Ryan did had life-altering consequences. Because he was 18 when he took the pictures and sent them out and Emma was underage, the police advised Ryan that he could be charged with "manufacturing, disseminating and possessing child pornography." That is a felony offence, which means he could face time in jail and be required to register as a sex-offender for the rest of his life.

HOST #2

And if any of those pictures showed physical contact between Ryan and Emma, there was also a chance he could be charged with statutory rape.

HOST #1

Even if he wasn't 18, in some places he could still face child pornography charges. Emma too.

HOST #2

Emma was also deeply affected on other ways. It took time and counseling for her to get over her humiliation and deal with her situation. And, as her mother said, even though Ryan talked her into taking the pictures, she had to accept a share of the responsibility. This wasn't something that happened to her, it was something she allowed to happen.

HOST #1

So remember : never take pictures of someone or allow someone else to take pictures of you that you wouldn't want to see on the front page of your local newspaper and plastered all over the Internet.

HOST #2

Pictures that you wouldn't want your parents, your grandparents, your teachers and everyone else you know to see. Because everything you send by phone or computer, everything you post on YouTube, will end up somewhere.

HOST #1

And sending those pictures can have long-lasting, life-altering consequences.



SEXTING

SEX PLUS TEXT EQUALS TROUBLE

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Emma's mother said that Emma had to accept her share of responsibility for what happened. What does it mean to take personal responsibility for your actions?

It never occurred to Emma that the pictures Ryan took could be used against her as a form of revenge. How often do you think teens include that possibility when considering the consequences of sexting? Should that be a legitimate concern? Why?

PROTECT YOURSELF ONLINE

HOST #2

We've talked about sexting and pictures – but remember sexting is about texting too , sending sexually explicit messages from a cellphone or computer.

HOST #1

So now let's take a look at what can happen when words, not pictures do the damage.

NATE

What you doing?

MATT

I was working on my term paper – now I'm just checking out Facebook.

NATE

Matt.

MATT

What?.

NATE

I think Christie's trying to get your attention.



SEXTING

SEX PLUS TEXT EQUALS TROUBLE

MATT

Christie? Where is she?

NATE

Over there. See in the corner.

MATT

She's not looking at me.

NATE

She was just a minute ago..... Trust me.. You better go see what she wants.

MATT

I don't know what you thought you saw, but she didn't even know I was here. I felt like a total jerk.

NATE

Sorry.. I thought for sure I saw her looking at you.

MATT

Now what happened? Did you touch this computer?

NATE

No. Why? What's the matter?

MATT

It shut down.

NATE

Wasn't me. I didn't touch it.. You know these machines. Anything can happen.

MATT

Doesn't matter. I was going anyway. See ya'.

NATE

Bye.



SEXTING

SEX PLUS TEXT EQUALS TROUBLE

ALI

Are you nuts?!

MATT

Oh hi, Ali.. How are you Matt ? Fine. Thanks for asking.

ALI

Don't be smart with me. Did you hear what I said.....Are you nuts?

MATT

Not that I'm aware of. Do you know something I don't know.

ALI

Yes I do. I know that you'd have to be completely crazy to post something that gross and disgusting on your Facebook page for everyone to see... Only a pervert would write things like that.

MATT

What are you talking about?

ALI

I mean suppose one of the colleges you applied to sees that. They can you know.

MATT

Ali, slow down.

ALI

And people know I'm your sister. You think I want people to think we have the same genes?

MATT

Ali. Stop! I don't know what you're talking about?

ALI

Well then check out your Facebook page.

MATT

Who did this? You think I did this. You think I'd ever do something like this. It's disgusting.



SEXTING

SEX PLUS TEXT EQUALS TROUBLE

ALI

You mean you didn't write that.

MATT

Of course not. Who in their right mind would? The only words here that aren't obscene are "of", "the" and "and."

ALI

Well then – how do you think it got there?

MATT

I have no idea.

ALI

Does anyone have your password?

MATT

Not that I know. But of course you never can tell.

ALI

Isn't it your birthday?

MATT

Yeah , but.....No one I know would figure that out.

ALI

Knowing your friends, I think you're right about that.

MATT

Thanks a lot.

ALI

Did you let anyone use your computer today?

MATT

No. I just took it out of my room when I came down here.



SEXTING

SEX PLUS TEXT EQUALS TROUBLE

ALI

Then how could someone get into your page to write that? Because that's what happened.

MATT

I don't know. That's what I'm telling you.

ALI

Go over your day – from when you left the house this morning 'til now.

MATT

I went to class – then after that I went to the library.....Oh... wait a minute!! Wait a minute.... I know who did this.

ALI

Who?

MATT

Nate. He must have done it at the Library.

ALI

This was sent from school? That's even worse.

MATT

I'll take care of that if I have to. I'll explain it wasn't me. And I'll take care of Nate too. But first I have to take care of this. There.. I deleted it.

ALI

I hope no one else saw it. Why would Nate do that?

MATT

Knowing him he probably thought it was funny. He does stuff like that.

ALI

Funny? That a college could see that = or if you applied for a job they could read it. Doesn't he know that?

MATT

Sometimes I don't think he puts it all together. He doesn't get it. He just does things without thinking.



SEXTING

SEX PLUS TEXT EQUALS TROUBLE

ALI

You read about weird things like this. Like that girl who had a page on some site under her name with a whole fake profile saying she was into all this kinky stuff – and she got all this porno and everything. And messages from weird guys she didn't know. She had no idea who did it.

MATT

How about that time someone got into that guy what's-his-name's online journal and wrote all that stuff about ugh....

ALI

I remember that. Didn't he end up going to a different school. It's horrible.....

MATT

I'm going to find Nate.....

ALI

First change your password. Just to be on the safe side. And pick something that no one could figure out.

MATT

Done.

ALI

Good. And make sure you block your page from everyone except your friends. Although with friends like Nate.....

MATT

Wait until I find him!..... But I guess I was asking for it. I shouldn't have left the computer at the Library open the way I did. Stupid.

ALI

It's too bad, but you have to be so careful.

HOST #2

That's right. You have to be so careful. People do post obscene things pretending to be someone else – and the things they post can cause embarrassment or even trouble. And they may not realize what they're doing. They may actually think it's a joke



SEXTING

SEX PLUS TEXT EQUALS TROUBLE

HOST #1

Of course, they could be doing it on purpose. It's cyberbullying.

HOST #2

So it's up to you to protect yourself. Don't leave your computer or cellphone where someone can get it and use it to send sext pictures or messages.

HOST #1

Protect your user id, passwords and check your social networking sites to be sure that no one has gone online pretending to be you.

HOST #2

Like Ali said, you have to be so careful.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Why do you think Nate would think what he did was funny? Do you think he would feel the same way if someone did that to him?

Do you know anyone who was the victim of what Nate did to Matt or a similar situation? Did a college admission officer and potential employer see the obscene posting? What happened?

WRAP-UP

HOST #1

So let's go back to these handy little devices and everything we've talked about today. We know we can't live without them, so we have to know how to live with them and be safe.

HOST #2

Remember nothing sent by cellphone or posted online is ever private or totally secure. And nothing is ever going away.

HOST #1

Once you send a photo or a message you have lost control of it. It can be sent any where to anyone at any time.



SEXTING

SEX PLUS TEXT EQUALS TROUBLE

HOST #2

So don't take or send pictures of yourself that you wouldn't be happy to show to your family, friends, teachers or anyone else you know.

HOST #1

Don't forget that a sext picture or message sent from one friend to another can end up in the hands of someone who is not a friend and can be used as an instrument of revenge – for everything from making you look bad, to embarrassment and humiliation, to serious legal trouble.

HOST #1

If someone sends you a naked or sexually explicit picture of someone underage do not send it to anyone else. Forwarding it could put you in the circle of distributing child pornography.

HOST #2

Always remember that sexting can result in very serious legal consequences.

HOST #1

Think before you act. Remember, every action you take has a consequence and that consequence can come back to haunt you.

HOST #2

Cell phones and computers are great. Just make sure they work for you, not against you.

HOST #1

And there's nothing about sexting that is ever working in your favor.

