

SPEECHLESS

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GRADE: 9

SCHOOL: SUN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Stage 1; The Call

One early Wednesday morning, Heather was walking to school, and the sun was shining so bright. It was just the beginning of spring, and the flowers were already blooming. Heather has always been an outsider in school. She never really stood up for herself or anyone else. On the inside, she always regretted not helping the kids in school when they were being bullied. She never thought she wouldn't be able to help anyone. She was always afraid to stand up to someone. Her life was about to be turned upside down when she saw Cory being made fun of on that perfect, bright Wednesday morning.

Stage 1; The Call

Heather overheard what Hunter was saying to Cory. Heather thought to herself, “Maybe this is the time for me to make a difference and help someone.” As Heather proceeded to the rescue, she was stopped by one of Hunter's friends, Landon. Landon knew exactly what Heather was going to do. Landon warned her that if she went over there things wouldn't be so pretty, and that she should just back off and walk away...so that is what Heather did.

Stage 1; The Call

The next morning, all Heather wanted to do was find out why Hunter was being so mean to Cory and how she could stop it. On Heather's walk to school, Cory walked right passed her. She tried to talk to him and ask him what was going on, but all he did was start to walk faster to get away from her. Heather thought there must be more going on then what she expected. When she got into school, she saw Cory walking in and everyone pointing at him and laughing. As she proceeded into class, she noticed people were talking in fake stutters.

Stage 1: The Call

Cory always had a stutter for as long as he could remember. Heather remembers him leaving the class in elementary school, but she never knew why. When Cory would leave, he would go to speech therapy. He never wanted to tell anyone because he always thought people would think he was less intelligent, compared to everyone else. Cory always thought that he wouldn't have any friends if everyone knew he was the “weird” kid who went to speech therapy every Monday morning.

Stage 1; The Call

Soon after middle school began, everyone knew about Cory's stutter. Not a lot of people cared Cory had a stutter and liked him for who he was, but there were certain individuals who would pick on him and repeat everything he stuttered on. Heather started to realize it when Cory wouldn't talk as much in class or answer any of the questions the teacher asked him. It was time for Heather to stand up for Cory and make a difference.

Stage 2; Trials and Ordeals

Heather promised herself that she would stand up to the next person who ever said a word about Cory and how he was “different”. She could not believe who the first person was she would have to stand up to. It was their music teacher. Mr. Harper was one of the meanest, scariest teachers in the school. Mr. Harper had asked Cory what his name was for the attendance that day, but Cory had trouble saying his first name. Cory hesitated and said “C-C-C-Cory”. The whole class went silent, besides the few snickers from other classmates. Mr. Harper repeated how Cory said his name and asked him if he had forgotten what his name was. Heather chickened out and didn’t say a word. At the end of class, she did stand up to one person, Hunter.

Stage 2; Trials and Ordeals

Heather finally stood up to Hunter. With much of his disbelief, Heather threatened him that if he doesn't stop harassing Cory that she is going to tell the principal and have him tell his parents. Knowing Hunter, that didn't scare him and just made him make fun of Cory more. When Cory found out what Heather said, he was grateful that she cared about him and wanted to help him out. Considering the fact that it had gotten worse since Heather talked to Hunter, Cory asked her to please stop, and said he can handle his own problems on his own. That didn't stop Heather; she still wanted to help him out.

Stage 2; Trials and Ordeals

The next morning, Heather saw Cory walking with his head down. She decided to walk with him and keep him company. She wanted to make sure he knew she was there for him, especially if he ever needed to talk to someone about anything. When Heather tried to walk with him, he blew her off and walked away. Heather did not understand why, but she was going to do all that she could to help him with the bullies at school. When they got into homeroom, she realized more kids were making fun of Cory for his speech impediment. Heather thought that it was the time for her to stand up to everyone at once. Heather stood up in the front of the class and began to speak.

Stage 2; Trials and Ordeals

Heather faced her fears and began to speak. She proclaimed that no one would want to be treated like Cory is, and she also said that Cory was just like all of them but just had a minor flaw in his speech. Hunter then stood up and said, “It’s not our fault he never learned how to speak!” Suddenly, Hayden stood up and proclaimed, “Heather is right, he is no different than all of us.” After Hayden stood up, Landon stood up too. Landon is best friends with Hunter and always agrees with what he says, but this time he didn’t.

Stage 2; Trials and Ordeals

Landon never stood up for anyone who Hunter made fun of. This time he did. Landon stood up front with Heather and Hayden and stated, “I will not hide behind Hunter anymore. I always agree with him, but this time I don’t! Cory is the nicest kid I have ever met. He is never rude or selfish and always puts others first. Well, now it’s time to put him first and stand up for him.” After Landon, Heather and Hayden were done talking, everyone else, besides Hunter, stood up and cheered for joy. After that, everyone apologized to Cory and told about all the times they were bullied as well. They told about how they felt and how much it had hurt them.

Stage 3; Return to Society

The next week, there was no bullying. As a matter of fact, Hunter was apologizing to Cory. It had never been this calm at school. Everyone was talking and having a great time on the playground. Heather, Hunter, Landon, Cory, and Hayden had never been so close. They all became friends and never made fun of anyone. It took Cory a while to trust Hunter because of all the things he had put him through. Whenever they see anyone bullying someone else, they immediately stop it.

Stage 3; Return to Society

As of today, Cory still has his stutter and still goes to speech therapy. Whenever someone asks Cory about his stutter, he doesn't try to hide it. Cory has become a lot more open about his stutter. Cory has been an inspiration to many kids and has been going to seminars recommended by his speech therapist. Cory even gives his own seminars about stuttering and how it can effect someone who does stutter.

Stage 3; Return to Society

Heather has stood up for many more people. Heather has also motivated other kids in school to stand up for people around them. She has been a motivator for people near and around her. She has developed strong relationships with people she has talked to. Heather would have never thought she would be such a motivation to people around her.

Stage 3; Return to Society

Hunter has stopped bullying and has become very close friends with Cory. Hunter is always there for Cory and regrets every mean thing he has ever said to him. He has sworn he will never say another mean word to anyone. Along with Heather, he has stopped other kids from bullying and will continue to tell people what he has gone through and how bad he had felt.

Stage 3: Return to Society

Hayden and Landon had made the decision that they will not hide behind anyone, and they will stand up for themselves and other people around them. Since, Hayden has stood up for many people around her. Landon is still learning and has made a small impact on the bullying issue around the school. Since Cory, Heather, Landon, Hunter, and Hayden had started to prevent bullying the schools, the bullying percentage has gone down 10%. It's not a lot, but it is a start.