

Eighth Grade, Session 24

What Do You Say?

Scenario 1

You're of Vietnamese background, and your friends are constantly making little comments about how smart Asians are when you struggle in school. It really irritates you that they make these assumptions, and that they group all Asians together as if they are all from one country.

- Why would it bother you if the labels they put on Asian people are positive?

- How and when would you talk to your friends about how you feel?

Scenario 3

Stephanie and Keli are best friends. Stephanie is a white student, and Keli is a black student. One day, Stephanie complimented Keli on how pretty her hair looked, and she reached out to touch Keli's hair. Keli felt uncomfortable about being touched, so she calmly asked Stephanie not to touch her hair again. Stephanie got upset and said, "I was just saying how nice your hair is, but I guess you can't take a compliment." Keli still felt uncomfortable about being touched without permission, but she did not want to upset her friend, so she didn't say anything else.

- How do you think Stephanie handled this? What could/should she have done differently?

- How do you think Keli handled this? Why is this situation hard for her?

- What challenges does this example highlight?