

LOVE BIRDS OVER A BUNSEN BURNER

Tyler was in 9th grade and new to the school. He was unbelievably excited in his first week. It was his first international school and he was in high school now. He had high hopes to be popular this year. He wasn't at his old school and he wanted to be sure to make it into the 'in' group.

He could tell after a few weeks that his aims were maybe set too high but he was finding his people and excited about having some new friends to explore this new and exciting city with. He had never lived in a city and then to be in a foreign country and a city was beyond cool.

There was one boy who had been bugging him, though, Nils. Nils seemed to bug everyone and tease people by sending Snaps of funny things they did.

During science that day there was a lab to be done. Tyler was assigned to work with Claire, who was a quiet girl he didn't hang out with and had never spoken to. No one thought she was cool and people made fun of her behind her back. Even though Tyler refused to use the word "nerd", he knew that working with her was going to cause some drama. And then he saw it. Nils discreetly slipped his phone out of his pocket and shot a picture. He then excused himself to use the bathroom. Tyler's heart was pounding. Was he going to be a victim of one of Nils' mean Snaps?

When Tyler left class, he could see everyone checking their phones in the hallway. Nils had snapped a shot of Tyler and Claire leaning over the Bunsen burner. Their heads were almost touching and there were hearts and one comment. "Love birds".

Tyler saw the picture and also saw Nils across the corridor with his friends laughing wildly. Tyler walked over and Nils didn't notice him coming. He very quickly snatched Nils' open phone and deleted all his pictures saying, "You do this again and I'll do more than delete your photos."

The entire group was stunned as Tyler walked off.

GRADES UP, TECH DOWN

Guiding Questions:

- Was Tyler's reaction over the top?
- What made Nils post the Snap? Why do you think Nils makes fun of people online?
- Do you think that it was okay for Tyler to take Nils' phone? How could Tyler have dealt with this differently?
- How do you feel when you see images making fun of others? Do you ask yourself how they might be feeling?
- Could you do anything to help Tyler?
- Could you do anything to help Nils understand why Tyler was so upset?
- What is media balance? Do you balance your media use?

Topic: Cyberbullying and Digital Drama, Digital Literacy
Age: Middle and High School