

THE DARE

Finn moved to Paris from Hamburg. At twelve, it wasn't an easy move. His English was pretty basic if that and his first weeks of international schooling were exciting, hard, and exhausting. But Finn's brain was like a sponge and his English improved by the day, with parents, teachers and new friends always being an enormous support to him.

To turn off, he loved to game and watch some of his German YouTube channels. His new friends at school knew he had very little tech rules at home and that his parents trusted him. Finn's friends loved being able to look up anything on his computer because no one looked into what he was doing.

One day when a group of boys came over to game after school, the ones who were just watching got restless. They started joking about playing Truth or Dare. Finn wanted to be brave and prove himself. When it was his turn, he announced, "Dare!"

Brandon came up with an idea. "Hey Finn, I've got one for you. Tina is seriously staring at you all the time. She's into you. I dare you to write to her whatever I say on WhatsApp."

"What do you mean?"

"Will you write her a message?"

"Hmmm, that is an easy dare."

"Okay, you have to write 'Will you blow me?' Dare to do that?"

Not having a great grasp of English, Finn knew what "blow" meant literally, but was very confused as to why that was a big deal. He didn't want to be seen as weak by the guys and he thought he'd have to ask his teacher what that meant but he also trusted his friends, thinking, "I'm sure they wouldn't tell me to write something that will get me in trouble." So he shrugged, "sure," and hit send.

The next day at school Finn was called to the principal's office where his mom was already sitting with tears in her eyes. He was confused.

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Guiding Questions:

- Was this an okay prank to pull? Why / why not?
- What do you think Finn's punishment was?
- Do you think the other boys should be punished? Why / why not?
- How do you think the girl felt when she got the message?
- How do you think Finn felt when he realized what he had said? How could he correct this?
- What should you do if you don't understand a word? Who should you ask?

Topic: Relationships and Communication, Cyberbullying and Digital Drama

Age: Middle School