

NOT-SO-PRIVATE DIARY

Jamie loved writing in her journal. It helped her reflect on the day and think through any problems she was having. Earlier this year, she found a blog site that acts like a journal. She started writing her stories online because it was faster to type, and then she didn't have to worry about losing her journal.

Jamie always wrote about school gossip, friend drama, family frustrations, and anything that got her blood boiling. After she wrote, she always felt better.

Jamie had the settings on her journal marked as public. This way, other people on the blog site could comment and give her support. She had made a lot of friends on the blog site and felt like it was a community. Whenever she submitted a journal entry, she always had people comment and make her feel better.

She was proud of her journal and thought of herself as a talented writer. She decided to show her friend, Cara, at school. She sent Cara the link and asked her to post a comment if she liked them. Jamie hoped she would read the one about the gym class mixup when she went into the boy's locker room on accident. That was pretty funny.

The next day Cara wouldn't talk to Jamie. Jamie was confused. Did she not like her writing? Finally, Cara confronted Jamie.

"I read one of your first posts ever. It was about when you and I got into a fight. There is some really mean, embarrassing stuff on there about me. I can't believe you!" Cara stomped off.

Jamie had completely forgotten about that post. She felt bad. She didn't mean to hurt Cara's feelings but also felt that it was a while ago, and they worked it out!

Jamie didn't know what to do.

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Guiding Questions:

- Why is Jamie's journal set to public and not private?
- What are the benefits and drawbacks to posting about your private life online?
- Would you be hurt if you were Cara?
- When and how can you post about other people online?
- What steps can Jamie take to fix her conflict with Cara?
- What lesson should Jamie learn?

Topic: Relationships and Communication, Online Identity
Age: Elementary School