

Hailey Person

Sophomore, South High

Wichita Kansas

Adults always say kids are just mean so don't let them get to you. You should just ignore them. They always say bullying is a part of growing up. But the truth is it is not. Suicide is not a part of growing up. The fear of walking into school is not a part of growing up. Being talked about, glared at, and made fun of is not a normal part of growing up.

According to the National Education Association, it is estimated that 160,000 children and teens who miss school everyday due to fear of attack or intimidation from other students. Some may say this is part of growing up. I say "no it isn't". School is tough enough as it is. With early mornings, hard classes, homework assignments, and extracurricular activities we already feel the pressure. Now throw in glares as you walk down the hall. Rumors that spread like wild fire and the rude and nasty opinions that other students yell at you. Do you think you could handle it better?

As a 15 year old girl in high school image is everything. Girls and boys alike care what people think of them. Why, because all of us are human. None of us are perfect and we all have flaws. We are hard enough on ourselves, we don't need others tearing us down and then walking all over us. People always say "sticks and stones may break your bones, but words will never hurt you." That isn't true. Sticks and stones may break your bones, but words can cause permanent psychological damage. When someone is bullied not only do they feel isolated and lonely, but they feel like nothing could help. Could you imagine feeling hated and alone every day with no way out? That is the harsh reality for thousands of children and teenagers in the school system as they are today. Please help make our schools systems a safer place for future generations to come.