

Choose Your Own Ending: What Should Ben Do?

What do you think Ben did?

We want you to share your ending ideas with us in a creative collage that promotes Bully Blasting. Last week we asked you to look in the *St. Petersburg Times* for your own Bully Blaster Inspiration List:

- a picture of people getting along well
- a synonym for conflict
- a story with a hero
- a group encouraging people to work together
- a comic that shows a victim

Create a collage.

If you haven't collected those items yet, you can clip them from today's paper.

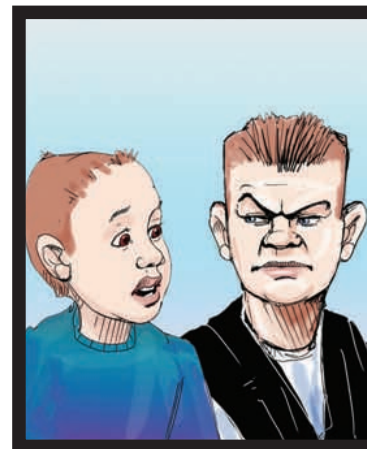
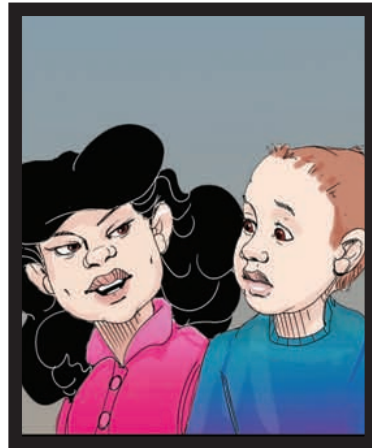
Cut out the scenes from today's chapter and on your own sheet of paper use them to create a collage that tells the end of the story. Remember, a collage is a collection of words and pictures glued together to tell a story or express a theme. Try to use as many of your Inspiration List items as you can in your collage. Be sure to fill out the captions in the center that tell how Ben's story worked out. For a sample go to tampabay.com/nie.

Enter our contest.

When you finish, mail your collage to the *St. Petersburg Times* to enter it in the Bully Blasters contest. All entries will earn a prize. The top winners in elementary and secondary categories will each win a special backpack filled with goodies and school supplies. If you want your collage returned to you, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Send it to:

Bully Blasters
c/o Newspaper in Education
St. Petersburg Times
P.O. Box 1121
St. Petersburg, FL 33731



In this series, you've read about the problems that Ben has had at school. He has had to deal with bullies and gang violence. He has gotten plenty of advice from his friends about the best way to handle bullies: tell an adult; get his big brother to beat up the bullies; fight back himself. **Of those three, which do you think would work best?**

Victims have other options. They can ignore the bully and pretend they don't hear what he or she is saying. It's hard, but it's best to show no reaction at all. Or they can respond firmly with, "Who cares what you think?" They can make a joke about it. They can remove themselves and walk away or go to an adult nearby if they feel threatened. In fact, if bullying happens over and over, the most important thing a victim can do is to tell an adult.

To share your thoughts about bullying, go to our blog at blogs.tampabay.com/nie.