

## **Eminem wins bully lyrics case** (Sun 17 Apr, 2005)

### **WARM-UPS**

**CHAT:** Talk in pairs or groups about: rap music / Eminem / bullying / \$1 million / song lyrics / dreams / being a rock star... For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

**RAP MUSIC BRAINSTORM:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with rap music. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

**BULLYING:** In pairs / groups, talk about bullying. Were you bullied at school? What kind of bullying did you see? Who was the biggest bully? Did you bully a younger brother or sister? Is there bullying in your office? What should happen to bullies?

Eminem describes being bullied in his song "Brain Damage". What would you do if a bully did these things (some from Eminem's song)?

- a. Harass you
- b. Shove you
- c. Beat you
- d. Break your nose
- e. Bang your head against the wall
- f. Grab you
- g. Choke you
- h. Tease you and call you names
- i. Take or break your things
- j. Steal your money

**COMMENTS ON BULLIES:** (1) Read the comments below made about bullies and agree or disagree with them with your partner / group. (2) Rewrite the sentences so that they agree with your own opinions. Add an extra sentence to each point that explains more of your opinion. (3) Change partners / groups and read and talk about the opinions you have written.

- a. Bullies are sad people.
- b. If you fight back against a bully, he/she will stop bullying you.
- c. Bullying is a part of school life. It does no real harm.
- d. Bullies have mental problems.
- e. Teachers should do more to stop bullying in classrooms.
- f. Boys are worse bullies than girls.
- g. Bullying stops after people are eighteen years old.
- h. Bullies should be arrested by the police.

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## PRE-READING IDEAS

**WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'school' and 'bully'.

**TRUE FALSE:** Guess whether the following statements about the article are true or false:

- a. Someone said in court that Eminem bullied him/her . T / F
- b. Eminem wrote a song about someone that bullied him at school. T / F
- c. Eminem was harassed by a kid named DeAngelo Bailey. T / F
- d. Mr Bailey broke Eminem's toes. T / F
- e. Bailey said he never bullied Eminem. T / F
- f. Judges decided the lyrics showed Mr Bailey in a false light. T / F

**SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| (a) old      | hurt     |
| (b) lyrics   | toilet   |
| (c) damaged  | punch    |
| (d) harassed | covered  |
| (e) shove    | former   |
| (f) beat     | wrong    |
| (g) soaked   | push     |
| (h) urinal   | words    |
| (i) false    | attacked |

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| (a) won a court         | my nose      |
| (b) school              | submission   |
| (c) sue Eminem for      | judges       |
| (d) beat me into        | case         |
| (e) he broke            | in this case |
| (f) soaked my clothes   | \$1 million  |
| (g) court               | in blood     |
| (h) the important thing | bully        |

## **TEXT RECONSTRUCTION:**

The article has been put in the wrong order. Put the sentences back into the correct order.

### **Eminem wins bully lyrics case**

They said the important thing in this case was that Mr Bailey bullied Eminem, not how truthful the lyrics were.

The bully, DeAngelo Bailey, sued Eminem for \$1 million because of the lyrics in a song called “Brain Damage”.

Soaked my clothes in blood, grabbed me and choked my throat”. Bailey said he did bully Eminem, but only with a “bump” or “little shove”. The lyrics said Eminem “was harassed daily by this fat kid named D’Angelo Bailey”.

The American rap star Eminem has won a court case brought against him by an old school bully.

“so everyday he’d shove me in the lockers/One day he came in the bathroom.../And had me in the position to beat me into submission/He banged my head against the urinal ‘til he broke my nose,/

In the song, Eminem raps about Mr Bailey bullying him:

He said the actions in the song were not true. The court judges decided the lyrics did not show Mr Bailey in a false light.

He said the words in the song damaged his name and hurt his dream of becoming a rock star.

## **DISCUSSION:**

- a. Did you like this article?
- b. How did you feel after reading this article?
- c. What are your feelings about bullies?
- d. What do you think of Eminem?
- e. Do you rap music?
- f. What’s your favorite kind of music?
- g. What do you think really happened between Eminem and DeAngelo Bailey?
- h. Do you think Eminem is happy he can write a rap song about his old bully?
- i. Was it wrong of Eminem to name Mr Bailey in his song “Brain Damage”?
- j. Was the judges’ decision correct?
- k. Were you a bully / Were you bullied ... at school?
- l. What kind of bullying did you experience / see?
- m. Who was the biggest bully at your school?
- n. Are boys bigger bullies than girls?
- o. Does bullying stop after you become an adult?
- p. Is bullying a crime?
- q. Did you like this discussion?
- r. Teacher / Student additional questions.

## **HOMEWORK:**

- 1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.
- 2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find information on the Eminem. Share your findings with your class next lesson.
- 3. MY RAP:** Write your own rap song about school life. Share it with your classmates in your next lesson
- 4. STOP BULLYING:** Create a poster explaining the new "Stop Bullying" scheme that will start in your school / office / company.

## **TEXT RECONSTRUCTION ANSWER:**

### **Eminem wins bully lyrics case**

1. The American rap star Eminem has won a court case brought against him by an old school bully.
2. The bully, DeAngelo Bailey, sued Eminem for \$1 million because of the lyrics in a song called "Brain Damage".
3. He said the words in the song damaged his name and hurt his dream of becoming a rock star.
4. The lyrics said Eminem "was harassed daily by this fat kid named D'Angelo Bailey". In the song, Eminem raps about Mr Bailey bullying him:
5. "so everyday he'd shove me in the lockers/One day he came in the bathroom.../And had me in the position to beat me into submission/He banged my head against the urinal 'til he broke my nose,/
6. Soaked my clothes in blood, grabbed me and choked my throat". Bailey said he did bully Eminem, but only with a "bump" or "little shove".
7. He said the actions in the song were not true. The court judges decided the lyrics did not show Mr Bailey in a false light.
8. They said the important thing in this case was that Mr Bailey bullied Eminem, not how truthful the lyrics were.