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The Small Girl With The Big Voice

Emily couldn't turn away, her eyes were fixed on the two figures in the center of the hallway. Her mind was yelling, "STOP!", but she couldn't force the words out. As she watched the people around her she couldn't stomach the thought that these people were laughing, encouraging this, and doing nothing. Even more she was disappointed in herself, she was doing nothing allowing this to happen. Emily felt no better than the bully. Walk away she told herself, its not your problem. But as soon as the thought crossed her mind the young girl caught her gaze. The girls name was Amber, her teary eyes looked right into Emily's. Her mouth didn't move but her eyes pleaded for Emily's help.

Amber's stair felt like someone just kicked Emily in the stomach. That look, that would be. Emily had something, something everyone has but chooses to ignore. Emily had a voice, a loud one a powerful one. But the difference between her voice and the bullies is that she uses hers for good and helping others. It takes courage to stand up for someone else. Even more to stand up for yourself. She stood up for Amber, she lent a hand when no one else would. Emily walked into the middle of Amber and the bully, she looked her right into the eye and said with a confident voice, " What does this prove? We all know you are bigger and stronger. You don't have to do this,". With that Emily turned to face Amber, together they walked away. Amber was happy, all she had ever wanted was a friend. Emily did something that everyone can do, be a friend to someone when they need it. Amber was thankful for what Emily did.

If we all work together we can end this fight against bullying and youth violence. We have all seen bullying, we all know what its like to feel powerless or alone. I have been in

the same situation as Emily. We all feel the urge to walk away and say its not our problem. But it is! You have to put yourself in that person's shoes. Everyones got a voice, find yours and use it.

There are easy ways to take a stand. Believe it or not one person can make a difference. One way is to be a friend, when someone is alone or has no friends, be the person who invites them to sit with you, be like Emily. Another way is to raise awareness. Inform people on what bullying is and how they can help. Teach others to prevent bullying and youth violence. It's also a simple as telling a teacher or trusted adult. There are many things that you can do. So be like Emily, use your voice to help us win the fight against youth violence and bullying. No voice is small, don't be afraid to be the person who does the right thing