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Do the Write Thing, Boston

Breaking the Cycle of Violence

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### Do The Write Thing Essay, 2014

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**JUST ANOTHER LABEL**

**I'm Zack and my best friend is Sarah we have been friends since kindergarden. I have been bullied since 6th grade because I like other boys. like I have crushes on boys. My mom has been trying to get me to therapist because she thinks I have a problem. My dad left me and my mom once he confirmed that I was different. The last words he said to me were "i'll come back when you change my son."**

**Its the end of fourth period and I'm hiding in the shadows, trying to escape them. All they do is tease me because I'm not as athletic as them. they think I should change myself just because I'm different. It's not the way I look or how I smell it's because I'm gay.**

**Lunch has started and I'm in the nurses office. With my friend Sarah by my side. I kept on asking if the nurse could change me because I am not in my right mind. Sarah took my hand and pulled me out of the nurses office. She said it was time for me to face them. I walk slowly behind Sarah. The cafeteria is very loud and when I walk in everyone goes silent. Then they(the football team) yell food fight. It is not a very fair food fight because they all aim at me. Once I wipe the food from my face I notice that Brad is right in my face with mystery meat special from three weeks ago he was saving for me. Here we go again...**

**I keep saying in my head almost the end of class. Then the teacher Ms.Harris calls on me. I say "I don't understand the question." then Ms.Harris replies "Sweetheart you need to pay attention there was no question I was just doing afternoon attendance." (Ms.Harris is my favorite teacher. She always helps me with my homework when my mom works late and she helps me actually like school when the wolf pack is not here.) Then Brad starts laughing at me and then giving dirty looks to the people who aren't laughing who let out quick nervous**

**giggles.**

***RING RING RING*** That was the school bell finally I can go home. as I turn down my street I feel as though someone is following me. I quickly turn around and Brad is charging towards me. My only instinct is to run for my life. but I was wrong he slowed to a stop about 3 ft. away from me. I turn around and start walking. He goes "Hey buddy im sorry for teasing you at school its just that i have been having problems at home." then I say "See you at school buddy." and then he says "Lets get new nicknames tomorrow."

Tomorrow I see Brad he sees me and runs up to me and pats my back. Once I get into homeroom the Wolfpack including Brad are laughing at me. I turn all the way around and stare at them. They stop laughing I feel Ms. Harris right behind me. She whispers to me. "Why do you have a label on your back that says... .. *gay day.*" I turned to Brad "You weren't my friend at all. " I'll never forgive him.....

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**20 YEARS LATER...**

As I walk out of the DA HOT SPOT from my lunch break I see a man on the corner. I look in my hand and I have about 78 cents. as I get closer I recognized the beggar it was Brad. I didn't hold a grudge because I almost forgot about him but I walked up to him and said " here you go 'BUDDY'" He looks up and smiles with all those missing teeth and I decided to give a job. Plus grudge matches get you nowhere.

**THE END**