

Don't Laugh At Me

by Marc Wills



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you ever been laughed at or teased in a way that feels bad? Why were you picked on?
- Have you ever laughed at or teased another student? Why? Do you see a connection between teasing and being teased?
- *Don't get your pleasure from my pain* – Do people actually get pleasure from hurting others? How? Why?
- *In God's eyes, we're all the same* – Are we really all the same? In what ways is this true? Do we generally believe or resist this idea?
- *And don't think I don't notice / That our eyes never meet* – What is he trying to say? Why don't our eyes meet the person begging on the street? How do you think it feels to have people not meet your eyes? Have you ever looked at someone who avoids your gaze? Why? How did it feel? How did you respond?
- Who is this song talking to?
- *I'm fat, I'm thin, I'm short, I'm tall / I'm deaf, I'm blind, hey, aren't we all?* – What does this mean? What are the implications?
- What do you think is the overall message/point of the song? (Go deeper than no teasing.) What is the song saying about how we perceive and treat other people? Is it suggesting we do something differently? What is your reaction to that suggestion?

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Show *Parting the Clouds*, a youTHink student PSA on the enhanced portion of the youTHink CD. What are student reactions to the PSA? What are the connections between this song and this PSA?
- This PSA was one group of students' way of taking action, sending a message about something that concerned them. Students can choose to take action about an issue in their school or their lives that concerns them. What kinds of actions could they take? If your students were to create a PSA or other artistic expression about this song, what would they want to communicate?
- Positive messages are more effective than negative ones ("Give respect to get respect" is more appealing than "No teasing"). Have students generate positive messages they can promote at school for a more positive school culture.