



Why sexting is not a good idea (Let me tell you a story.....)

“Harry” and “Sally” have been dating since school started and their families are going on spring break in two different states. Harry asks Sally for a picture to take with him on his cell phone and Sally texts a sexy picture of herself.

When they get back to school, things have changed:

Sally doesn’t seem happy to see Harry. That afternoon Harry sees Sally with a new guy in school and they appear very interested in each other.

When Harry asks Sally what is going on, she says, “I want to just be friends from now on, okay? “

Harry feels hurt and then mad. The more he thinks about Sally, the madder he gets... “Who does she think she is?”

Then he has an idea... He pulls out his phone... scrolls through his pictures and finds the one he's looking for.....the sexy one! He attaches it to a message that says....Open this Now!... and sends it out to all of his friends...

Now at this point you might think I'm going to say, “to make a long story short” ...but unfortunately, sexting isn't that easy. It could be a long story with consequences for everyone involved...

Sally finds out what has happened from all the texts and phone calls she gets by the end of the week from friends and former friends... Do you think it ends there?

The following Monday, Harry’s parents get word that the county prosecutor has filed charges for possessing and disseminating child pornography and his parents now have to hire an attorney....and the story continues...

Open dialogue around the impact of “sexy” photos ending up on the Internet, criminal liabilities, civil liabilities, and long-term impact on college admission and job opportunities.



Optional activity for above scenario:

Make 50 small copies of pictures of a stylized female face to pass out as the texted “picture” and on the back of some of them, put the labels listed below. Before the students come into the room, place the pictures with the labels under some of the desks. Place two chairs in the front of the room labeled Harry and Sally. After you tell the story, ask for a volunteer to be Harry’s best friend, Charles, and since Harry has texted him the picture, give him a stack of pictures to text (pass out) to: friends, team members, who text them to their friends, etc., and then – post it to Facebook. After everyone has a picture, ask each student to look under their desk. Ask those who find a picture with a label (teacher, parent, etc.) on it to introduce themselves as that person and talk about their reaction to the picture.

Labels:

Teacher / Principal / Youth minister / college recruiter / current employer / future employers / grandparent / parent