

Eleven

Adam

In literature, authors write a lot about one character being upset and taking it out on another person. Sandra Cisneros' essay "Eleven" is about a girl named Rachel who is mistreated by her teacher and in return mistreats her classmates.

Rachel is mistreated by her teacher. Mrs. Price finds an ugly, old sweater in the lost room and forces Rachel to put it on. Rachel says "That's not... mine", but Mrs. Price moves on to the next math problem without understanding Rachel, saying "Of course, it's yours". Mrs. Price says "I remember you wearing it once." This is mistreatment because Mrs. Price isn't respecting Rachel. Mrs. Price doesn't care about what Rachel has to say. Later, right before the bell rings, Mrs. Price pretends as if everything is ok, ignoring the real pain Rachel is feeling.

In return for Mrs. Price mistreating Rachel, Rachel then goes on to mistreat her classmates. Rachel thinks of

her classmates in a derogatory way. An example of this is when Rachel commented, "Maybe because I am skinny, maybe because ~~she~~ she doesn't like me, that stupid Sylvia Saldívar says '... ~~the worst~~ ~~part~~ ~~about~~ ~~it~~ ~~is~~ ~~right~~ ~~before~~ ~~the~~ ~~bell~~ ~~that~~ ~~stupid~~ ~~Phyllis~~ ~~Lopez~~ ~~who~~ ~~is~~ ~~even~~ ~~dumber~~ ~~than~~ ~~Sylvia~~ ~~Saldívar~~ ~~says~~ ~~she~~ ~~remembers~~ ~~the~~ ~~sweater~~ ~~is~~ ~~hers~~." I think it belongs to Rachel." Then later on, Rachel comments "... But the worst part about it is right before the bell that stupid Phyllis Lopez who is even dumber than Sylvia Saldívar says she remembers the sweater is hers". In both these examples, Rachel is calling her classmates dumb and stupid. She's doing this in her mind, but her feelings probably affect her actions too. Sandra Cisneros also shows Rachel mistreating her classmates when Rachel describes the sweater as smelling like "college cheese" and "... all itchy and full of germs that aren't even mine". This shows that Rachel is disgusted with wearing her classmates' clothes. The sweater it turns out, belongs to Phyllis and she

Must feel awful, seeing Rachel
 cry over the fact that Rachel
 needs to wear her sweater.

This story teaches me that
 when someone mistreats a
 person a person, that person
 needs to protest so
 that they don't pass
 on their fury to other
 people. When someone gets
 mad at me, I sometimes
 don't protest ~~it~~ and instead pass
 it on to someone else.
 Sandra Cisneros in "Eleven"
 teaches me to speak up.