

THINKING ABOUT STICKY SITUATIONS

Sometimes young people feel trapped when they've done something wrong. They feel scared that they'll get caught, but they're too scared to ask for help. They are afraid that they will get blamed, instead of getting the help they need.

At COPA, we know that one of the hardest things for anyone to do is admit to a mistake and to stand up for what we know is right, especially for young people when there is no support from peers or the adults around them.

In *A Sticky Situation*, Fones is feeling cornered and anxious. We hope that reading this comic book and exploring it together can open up conversations with young people about how to handle these kinds of challenging situations.

We believe that all of us, including young people, can be creative and come up with positive strategies for dealing with problems, especially with the support and guidance of trusted friends and family who believe in that capacity to do so.

Young people will make mistakes (as we all do) and the way we respond to them will determine whether they can learn from them, and develop critical problems-solving skills and tools to be accountable when they do.

Here are some questions to promote discussion and reflection on these topics.

IN ORDER TO AVOID ASSIGNING A GENDER TO THE CHARACTERS, WE USE 'THEY' AND NOT 'SHE' OR 'HE'.

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

- What do you think Fones was feeling when the other kids had money to go to eat out?
- How do you think Fones felt when encouraged to steal? How do you think Fones could have handled the situation in that moment?
- Can you have more than one feeling at the same time?
- Does it take more strength to do what the group wants or to do what we know is right for ourselves?
- If everyone likes Fones for stealing the gum, why is Fones unhappy?
- Do you ever have days where it feels like everything is going wrong?
- Who would you tell if you did something wrong and needed help?
- How hard is it to take a chance losing a friendship when our friend wants us to do something that doesn't feel good to us?
- What do you think of Fones' way of handling the problem when pressured to steal again?
- Have you ever been in a situation like Fones? What did it feel like? How did you deal with it?
- Why did Keenly get mad at Fones? Why did Keenly change the way they were talking to Fones?
- What do you think Keenly did well? What could Keenly have done better to help Fones out?
- Do you think it helped that the teacher offered to help Fones?