

## *The Day Laurel Went Viral - Before Reading Activity*

*Form groups to construct (think up settings, dialog and action) and then perform the following scenes:*

**Scene 1:** *Laurel's boyfriend tries to talk her into giving him an extraordinary birthday present, some 'special pictures' of her. She hesitates, knowing that sexting is risky business, but in the end she agrees to let him have the pictures.*

**Scene 2:** *Laurel's boyfriend posted the photos on the Internet and they've gone viral. Laurel has become the target of bullying at school. A group of girls plan a trap for her. She walks into the trap.*

**Scene 3:** *Laurel and three friends are walking in the schoolyard when the fire alarm sounds. When almost all of the students leave the schoolyard to go and watch the fire, Laurel and her friends are suddenly surrounded by a group of bullies, headed up by the ringleader of the bullies. Laurel manages to escape and from a nearby bush uses her Smartphone to make a video of what happens next. Just as the gang is about to attack the others, she comes running out and shows the head of the gang the video. He forces her to give him the Smartphone but she says it will do him no good. She has already forwarded the video. She says he must put an end to the bullying or she will show the principal the video.*

**Scene 4:** *In the days after the confrontation in the schoolyard, Laurel and her friends wait and watch to see if the ringleader has called for an end to the bullying. Zach, her best friend, warns the others not to expect the bullying to come to an end overnight. He compares it to trying to get a bunch of snakes back in a bag after they've been let out. He's right. The bullying goes on for several days before it finally stops.*

*After-Reading Activity The Day Laurel Went Viral*

*Look through the story again and find as many examples as possible of the way digital devices (cell phone, Smartphone, PC) are used.*

*Classify the examples as **negative** (bad, harmful) or **positive** (good, beneficial).*

<b>Negative</b>	<b>Positive</b>

*In pairs, compare and discuss your findings, and comment on the question '**Are digital devices a blessing or a curse?**'*