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When I was nine years old, several classmates tried to drown me on a field trip. The staff denied the incident's ever occurring and my parents moved me to a new school to escape the dangerous environment of my original elementary school. Yes, I just used the words 'dangerous' and 'elementary school' in the same sentence- because they are. We like to think of children as the epitome of innocence, when truly they are just little people like everyone else, only without knowledge of tact or basic human courtesy. That is what needs to be changed, and changed early. Courtesy and politeness are a lot like language, I've found, in that they are best learned young and must be consistently reinforced. At my high school, we recently hosted a speaker against bully. Within days, the lecture was forgotten unless it was mocked. An hour or two of listening to testimonials, at a time when most students have already developed and cemented the aspects of personality that would encourage them to bully, simply isn't sufficient. These behaviors must be caught early and corrected. Again like language, what we learn first is what we fall back on in times of stress. Simple human kindness must be taught, must be a priority, from the first day a child is old enough to understand because that is the behavior they will revert to when life's hardships start breaking them down. In this way, all adult authority figures must be responsible for setting an example- but it is the children's responsibility to learn, to remember, and to respect. The adults must put things in motion, but in the end it is the youth of our generation that must resolve to change. We must recognize that there is a problem, that the problem, bullying- is wrong, and that we have to do something about it. Nobody can do it for us, no matter how they might wish to, and no one person can stand alone. As Abraham Lincoln said when he stoop against tradition to protect the rights of the abused, "A house divided against itself cannot stand." We, the children must stand united against this threat to our happiness and survival. We can do it. If we start now, if we start early, the children can learn to rise above bullying. But we must start now and must start from the beginning.