

CASE STUDY

- BOYS -

José isn't exactly sure what he should do. He's friends with both Yuto and Tyshawn, but this situation is getting more difficult to handle. The problem started in Physical Education class. Almost every class, the teacher will show them a new sport or game, then split the class up to play against each other. There's always one team that wins. The other team ALWAYS seems to lose. José, Yuto, and Tyshawn are all equally competitive, but not as equally athletic.

Yuto is the most athletic of the three. He's the fastest and strongest boy in their class, and always seems to be the best no matter what sport he's playing. Yuto hates losing, so he's always challenging his teammates to win. Sometimes, Yuto takes it too far, though. He can be mean and yell at people.

José is an above average athlete. He's not the fastest, but definitely not the slowest. No matter what sport they're playing, he's the model teammate. He HATES losing, but he's not going to yell at anyone about it. He's going to play as hard as he can to cover up the mistakes of his teammates.

Tyshawn is definitely the least athletic of the three. Maybe even the least athletic of the entire class. But he still HATES losing. So, he'll yell at the other teammates to push them to play better. His teammates don't like this because he isn't helping their team win either.

Whenever Yuto and Tyshawn are on the same team, they get into some pretty intense arguments. Most of the time, Yuto blames Tyshawn when they lose. When Yuto's team wins, he always says they won because Tyshawn was on the other team. José often finds himself caught in the middle of Yuto and Tyshawn.

This started in Physical Education, but now it's happening everywhere. Yuto started calling Tyshawn "Loser," as if that's his nickname. Yuto will tell on Tyshawn in some way in almost every single class. Tyshawn will respond, but it never seems to be as clever or funny as Yuto. José is in almost every class with Yuto and Tyshawn, so he watches it all go down. He is consistently asking himself, "What should I do?"

José, Yuto, and Tyshawn, along with most of the other 7th grade boys, sit at one long table at lunch. Today, just like usual, Tyshawn walks to the table to sit down. Yuto throws a tater tot at him and says, "Losers can't sit at this table! Find somewhere else to sit!" Tyshawn steps angrily closer to Yuto and says, "What did you say?!?" Yuto stands up and says, "I said, what I said! Losers like you can't sit here at the winner's table. Find somewhere else to sit!" José was sitting in the middle of them with several chairs separating them. Tyshawn looked around to see if anyone would help him, but none of the other 7th grade boys did anything, including José. So Tyshawn picked up his tray and found another table to sit at.

José is friends with Tyshawn and feels bad for him. José is also friends with Yuto, but he's also kind of intimidated by him. He doesn't want to get in the middle of Tyshawn and Yuto's problems, but he also knows that Tyshawn isn't being treated right. He has no idea what he should do.