

Stand Up, Speak Out Answer Key

1. Lines of Dialogue Showing the Message:

- *"He's not scared," Nora said firmly. "He's sick. My mom told me his family's having a tough time."*
- *"It's not weird to need help," Nora said. "It's weird to make fun of someone who does."*

2. How Nora's Tone and Words Show Courage:

Nora speaks **firmly and respectfully**, even when the rest of the class is laughing. Her tone shows **confidence and empathy**, proving that she's brave enough to stop unkind behavior instead of joining in.

3. Lesson Readers Learn:

The story teaches that **real courage means speaking up for others**, even when it's uncomfortable or unpopular. It reminds readers that kindness and respect can change how people think and act.

4. Why the Author Uses Dialogue Instead of Narration:

The author uses dialogue to make the moment feel **real and powerful**. Hearing Nora's exact words lets readers experience the tension and see how one person's voice can silence cruelty. Dialogue helps readers **feel** the courage rather than just read about it.

Teaching Tips:

- Begin with a short discussion on what "standing up for others" looks like in real life.
- After reading, discuss how the author uses dialogue to "show" rather than "tell" the message.

Extension Ideas:

- Have students rewrite the story as a **narrative summary** without dialogue to compare impact and tone.
- Ask students to script their own **mini-dialogue scene** where one character stands up for another.