

William Peck
Grade Five, Honorable Mention
Lynn Johnson, Teacher

Are you a bystander? I know I don't want to fall into this category. What I could do to be helpful to the community is to pick up trash on the road or on properties so we could have a clean and non-polluted town. In school, I could stand up to bullies and stop people who might be causing vandalism. People could go to the town council if they want to discuss problems in the community, or in school they could contact student council or the PTA to get help. We could also be kinder to our teachers and peers.

If you observe something in the town that isn't right or if you have a suggestion you want to make, you could write a letter or a note to the mayor or attend a town council meeting to bring it to their attention. For example, if you notice cars racing on residential roads and you think children are in danger of being hit, talk to the town council to see about getting signs to lower the speed limit in the area.

If a new neighbor just moved in next to you, you should be very kind and welcoming to them so they will know how kind the people in the town are. You could bake or cook up some welcoming food like pie, cookies, soda, or even adult drinks like wine.

There are also plenty of other things you could do to make you a contributing member to the town or school. If you see garbage on the floor, even though it might not be your wrapper, just pick it up and throw it away. You should find a trash can when you are eating something you don't like and dispose of it properly. Litter destroys the beauty of Franklin Township, so don't be a bystander. Help by cleaning it up!

Bullies are people who don't treat others the way they want to be treated so standing up to bullies makes others feel great because they won't have anyone making fun of them or harassing them anymore. Also, by helping someone else, you feel better about yourself.

Being a good contributing member to the community means following the laws. If you need to burn something, make sure you have a special burning license. If you need to burn brush you have to get a special license that says you can burn things. Burning is very dangerous, and if you get hurt you can't blame someone because you did it at your own risk. I know firefighters help out with fire and all, but your carelessness could take them away from their duties of fighting another serious fire.

I know that I can't help everyone in Franklin Township, but I can do my part. You want to be a kind and respectful person and help out around the neighborhood and don't be a dull bystander; be an amazing upstander!