

Art Activity 2: Telephone Game



“I know that now,” Kevin told her. “It’s weird how fast someone can start a rumor and it can just grow...” he shook his head from side to side, his brown hair falling onto his forehead. “This gossip thing is really sick. People get a hold of something, then a few people repeat it, and it doesn’t even sound the same as it was the first time. It’s even worse on the Internet because you don’t see people face-to-face. It’s like that old game ‘Telephone.’ You say to someone, ‘I like red cherries’ and at the other end it comes out, ‘I saw Kevin with a girl named Sherry.’”

-*Just Kidding* p. 244

Have several random sentences written on paper before you begin the game. (You can take them from a book, magazine or newspaper if you like.)

Line up at least 5 people. The first person takes a slip of paper from the pile of sentences and reads the paper’s sentence to herself and then whispers it, only once, into the ear of the next person in line. That person passes on what she heard by whispering it, again only once, into the ear of the next person in the line and so on until the end of the line. The last person in line says aloud what she heard. After hearing what the last person heard, the first person in the line rereads what she originally said to the first person. Most often, what the last person heard bears no resemblance to what the first person read! What does this tell you about passing on information you hear from someone else?