The Truth About Truman School
Teacher’s Guide

p. 3-7: List everything you know about Zebby after reading this section. Do you like Zebby?

p. 3: Zebby says she isn’t one of the popular girls, yet her website (truthabouttruman.com) is popular. Why?

p. 5: Why do you think Mrs. Jonstone tells Amr, “we don’t have a problem with bullying here at Truman, and an article like that would just get the administration all riled up?” Do YOU think a school paper article on bullying would get the teachers and the principal at Truman “all riled up?” What makes you think that?

p. 7-12: List everything you know about Amr after reading this section. Do you like Amr?

p. 10-12: Zebby and Amr are trying to figure out what to put on their website to get people interested in it. What do you think they should have put on their website? If you had a website of your own, what would you put on it to get people interested?

p. 12-13: List everything you know about Brianna after reading this section. Do you like Brianna?

p. 13-15: List everything you know about Hayley after reading this section. Do you like Brianna?

p. 16-17: List everything you know about Lilly after reading this section. Do you like Lilly?

p. 16-17: Do you think Lilly should have told someone about the first e-mail she got from milkandhoney? What about the second and third e-mails? Who should she have told? Would YOU have told someone if it was you?

p. 18-20: List everything you know about Trevor after reading this section. Do you like Trevor?

p. 18-20: Trevor clearly doesn’t have a lot of friends. Do you think this is his fault or do you think it’s the fault of the other kids at school?

p. 18-20: What do you think of Mrs. Horton?

p. 20-21: Who do you think Anonymous is?
p. 21: Lilly has rules about when she can use the computer at home and when she can’t. Do you have rules about computer use at your house? Do you think kids your age should have rules about computer use?

p. 23-24: Hayley wants to start a cheerleading squad at Truman. What sort of club or activity would you start at YOUR school if you could?

p. 25-26: Do you think Zebby should write about Hayley’s cheerleading squad on the truthabouttruman.com? Why or why not?

p. 28-30: Do you think the kids at Truman will like Trevor’s comic if they don’t know he’s the artist? What if they DO know he’s the artist? Why did you answer the way you did?

p. 31: Do you think Lilly and her friends will be successful in starting a cheerleading squad at Truman?

p. 33: Do you think Mrs. Conway would approve of truthabouttruman.com? Why or why not?

p. 39: Do you think it was a big deal that Zebby left that picture up on truthabouttruman.com? Why or why not?

p. 39-40: Do you think Brianna and Mark get along better than most brothers/sisters, about the same as most brothers/sisters or not as well as most brothers/sisters?

p. 41-43: How do you think most people at the game felt about Hayley, Brianna and Lilly being cheerleaders? Do you think they thought it was a good idea or a bad idea? Why did you answer the way you did?

p. 44: How do you suppose Lilly felt when she saw that old picture of her up on truthabouttruman.com? Has anything like that ever happened to you?

p. 44: Who do you think milkandhoney is? Do you think they really have the power to turn Lilly into an “unpopular girl?”

p. 47: How do you suppose Hayley felt when she saw that 43 people said they thought the girl in the picture was HER?

p. 47: Has anybody ever posted anything online about you that wasn’t true?

p. 47: Who do you think feels worse at this point in the story? Lilly or Hayley?

p. 47-48: What would you say to Hayley if she’d called YOU and told you about the poll results?
p. 48-50: What do you think Lilly should do here?

p. 50: NOW who do you think Anonymous/milkandhoney is?

p. 52: What do you think Zebby is going to do now? What should she do? What would you do if this was your website?

p. 54: What does Trevor mean when he says, “popular kids could choose to use their powers for good?” Do you think he’s right?

p. 55-56: Do you think Lilly’s friends are avoiding her or do you think it’s just a coincidence that they’re not there?

p. 57-59: Do you think what happened to Trevor in this section is better or worse than what’s happening to Lilly? Why do you feel that way?

p. 59-62: Have you ever felt unsure about your friends the way Lilly is feeling right now? What did you do about it? What do you think Lilly should do?

p. 62-63: What do you think it’s like for Amr to grow up in the United States as a Muslim?

p. 65: What do you think “phase 2” of Anonymous’s plan is? Any guesses?

p. 66: If you were going to write a feature article entitled, School Food: Is it Safe?? what would you write? How would you support your argument?

p. 67: What do you think Lilly’s secret might be? Any ideas?

p. 71: Do you understand why Lilly didn’t want to be friends with Zebby and Amr any more in sixth grade? Has that ever happened to you…have you ever wanted to stop being friends with someone? Why? Did you actually stop being friends with that person? How?

p. 73: Why did a lot of kids turn and look at Lilly at the beginning of sixth grade? Is Hayley right when she assumes it’s because Lilly was popular at her old school?

p. 73-74: What does it mean to be “popular?”

p. 74: Is it true that people will say and do things online that they wouldn’t do in real life? Give an example.

p. 74: Are there things you would say or do online that you wouldn’t say or do in real life?

p. 76: Why doesn’t Lilly tell her mom what she found online?

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p. 77-78: What would you do at this point if you were Hayley? What do you think Hayley is going to do?

p. 80: Trevor says, “It matters a lot if people just think you’re gay. It’s like one of the worst things you can say about someone in middle school.” Do you think he’s right?

p. 81-82: Do you think Zebby should have taken the link to “Lilly’s Lesbian Diary” off of the truthabouttruman.com?

p. 84: Why did Reece break up with Lilly?

p. 85: What do you think of Sara Murphy? Why do you think she doesn’t talk?

p. 86-88: Why do you think kids are continuing to e-mail mean things to Lilly?

p. 88-92: Who do you think is having an easier time right now, Lilly or Trevor? Why do you feel that way?


p. 94: What do you think Zebby is going to do next?

p. 94-96: Who do you think milkandhoney is now?

p. 99: Brianna says, “everybody talks about people behind their backs.” Is she right? Do you know anyone who NEVER says anything bad about someone else?

p. 101-103: Do you think it would help or make things worse if Lilly talked to her mom about what was happening to her? What do you think Lilly’s mom would do if she knew?

p. 104-105: What do you think Lilly could do to help her situation with her friends?

p. 105-107: Do you think Zebby should turn Amr in? Do you think their friendship will survive this?

p. 107: What do you think is coming next?

p. 108-109: Who do you think put up the “We Hate Lilly Clarke” website? Why do you think they did it?

p. 109: What do you think milkandhoney is going to do next?

p. 111-112: Do you think Lilly’s pretending to be sick is a good idea?
p. 114: Why does Zebby say, “it doesn’t always feel like our newspaper?” What does she mean by that?

p. 115: Do you think Zebby regrets starting truthabouttruman.com? Why or why not?

p. 118-120: Do you think Lilly’s mom should make her go to school?

p. 123-125: What do you think about the way Sara handles her problems at school?

p. 125-128: Do you think Lilly’s friends are worried about her? Do you think they feel bad about how they’ve treated her?

p. 128-129: Why do you think Zebby decides to tell Lilly’s mom what’s been going on?

p. 129-130: Where do you think Lilly is?

p. 132-134: If something bad has happened to Lilly, do you think Zebby would be responsible?

p. 138-140: Why does Trevor want Zebby and Amr to keep their website up? Do you think they should keep it up?

p. 142-143: Do you think Brianna will tell on her friends?

p. 146: Who do you think milkandhoney is now?

p. 148-149: Do you think it’s a good idea for Zebby and Amr to look for Lilly? Why or why not?

p. 153: Why does Lilly throw her shoes at Zebby and Amr and why does she yell at them?

p. 158: Who do you think milkandhoney is now?

p. 159: Lilly says she didn’t always like who she was when she hung out with Hayley and Brianna…what do you think she meant by that? Have you ever felt that way about certain friends of yours? When? What did you do about it?

p. 159-161: Do you think going to a different school is a good idea for Lilly? Why or why not?

p. 161: Give some examples of situations when it is okay to “run away?”

p. 162: How does Zebby feel about what happened to Lilly and her role in it?
p. 163: Do you think cyberbullying is worse than any other kind of bullying? Why or why not?

p. 163: Do you agree with Amr when he says, “Don’t blame computers [for cyberbullying]. Blame the kids [who do it]?"

p. 164: Did Brianna’s punishment fit her crime? What about Hayley’s?

p. 166-167: What do you think about Lilly and Trevor’s conversation? Do you think they resolved things between them?

p. 166-167: Do you think Trevor feels bad about what he did? What makes you think so?

p. 166-167: Should Lilly have told her parents or the school or even the police what Trevor did? Should Trevor have been punished? Why or why not? How should he have been punished?

p. 167-169: Do you think Lilly, Zebby and Amr will ever be friends again?

p. 167-169: What do you think about Lilly’s idea for the truthabouttruman.com?

End: Were you surprised to find out who milkandhoney was or did you think it was that person all along?