

Spotlight on: PINK SHIRT DAY

Pink Shirt Day has been a school-board wide initiative held in February for the past few years. As stated in the name, we wear pink shirts. But, why?

Imagine this. You wake up, and it is the first day of school. You are nervous and excited about what is to come. There are so many questions running through your head. Will you be in the same class as your friends? Will your teachers be nice? Will you get good grades this year? You pick out a nice outfit, brush your teeth, have some breakfast, and get ready to leave the house. You finally arrive at school, and try to calm all the questions and thoughts rushing through your head. Then out of no where, this day becomes one of the worst days of your life.



In 2007, this was the reality for a gay high school teen in Berwick, Nova Scotia. It was Charles McNeill's first day of grade 9, and he was bullied simply for wearing pink. The intimidators did not care if Charles was a smart, kind, creative, funny, or athletic student. Charles was bullied for what he wore. He was made fun and made to feel less.

Two bystanders witnessed this bullying and they were able to put themselves in Charles' shoes. They decided to help. David Shepherd and Travis Price bought and distributed 50 pink shirts to other students in the school. They asked all 50 students to wear their shirts together to create a united sea of pink.

The bullies saw the unity of the school, and the bullying stopped. Charles felt supported and cared for by his peers. This one action not only helped Charles, but also created a movement that carries a message of unity and caring for others all across Canada.

Pink Shirt Day is a simple but immense act of kindness. The colour you wear does not determine anything about you. It is simply a colour. On Pink Shirt Day, we are reminded of the importance of supporting one another and saying no to bullying. However, we must encourage ourselves and one another to show this compassion and empathy on a daily basis. Thank you to all who take a stand against bullying and homophobia!

PRE and POST DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Pink Shirt Day

PRE-discussion Questions

- Are you ever made fun of for what you wear? What do people say?
- Do colours have meaning?
- Can only certain people wear certain colours?



POST-discussion Questions

- Imagine you were a bystander present at the time that Charles McNeill experienced the bullying. Would you do anything if you saw the bullies make fun of Charles? Why or why not? What would you do?
- Why do you think that David Shepherd and Travis Price stood up for Charles?
- As a bystander today, what would you do if you saw someone being made fun of because of what they are wearing or a colour they like?
- How would you feel if you were in a bullying situation and someone stood up for you?
- Is homophobia still a problem today? Are there any other homophobic situations similar to that of Charles that you have seen or still see today?
- What do you think the government can do to help stop bullying and homophobia?
- What do you think the community can do to help stop bullying and homophobia?
- What can schools do to help stop bullying and homophobia?
- What can you do to help stop bullying and homophobia?

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS- Pink Shirt Day

1. In which month do we celebrate Pink Shirt Day?
2. What grade was Charles McNeill's in?
3. In which province did this event happen?
4. Why was Charles McNeill's bullied?
5. Who were David Shepherd and Travis Price?
6. What did David Shepherd and Travis Price do after witnessing the bullying?
7. Where is Pink Shirt Day celebrated?
8. Pink Shirt Day takes a stand against what two things?

COMPREHENSION ANSWERS – Pink Shirt Day

1. In which month do we celebrate Pink Shirt Day?

FEBRUARY

2. What grade was Charles McNeill's in?

GRADE 9

3. In which province did this event happen?

NOVA SCOTIA

4. Why was Charles McNeill's bullied?

HE WORE A PINK SHIRT

5. Who were David Shepherd and Travis Price?

BYSTANDERS AT THE SCHOOL

6. What did David Shepherd and Travis Price do after witnessing the bullying?

THEY BOUGHT 50 PINK SHIRTS AND GAVE IT TO STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL.

7. Where is Pink Shirt Day celebrated?

ALL ACROSS CANADA

8. Pink Shirt Day takes a stand against what two things?

BULLYING AND HOMOPHOBIA

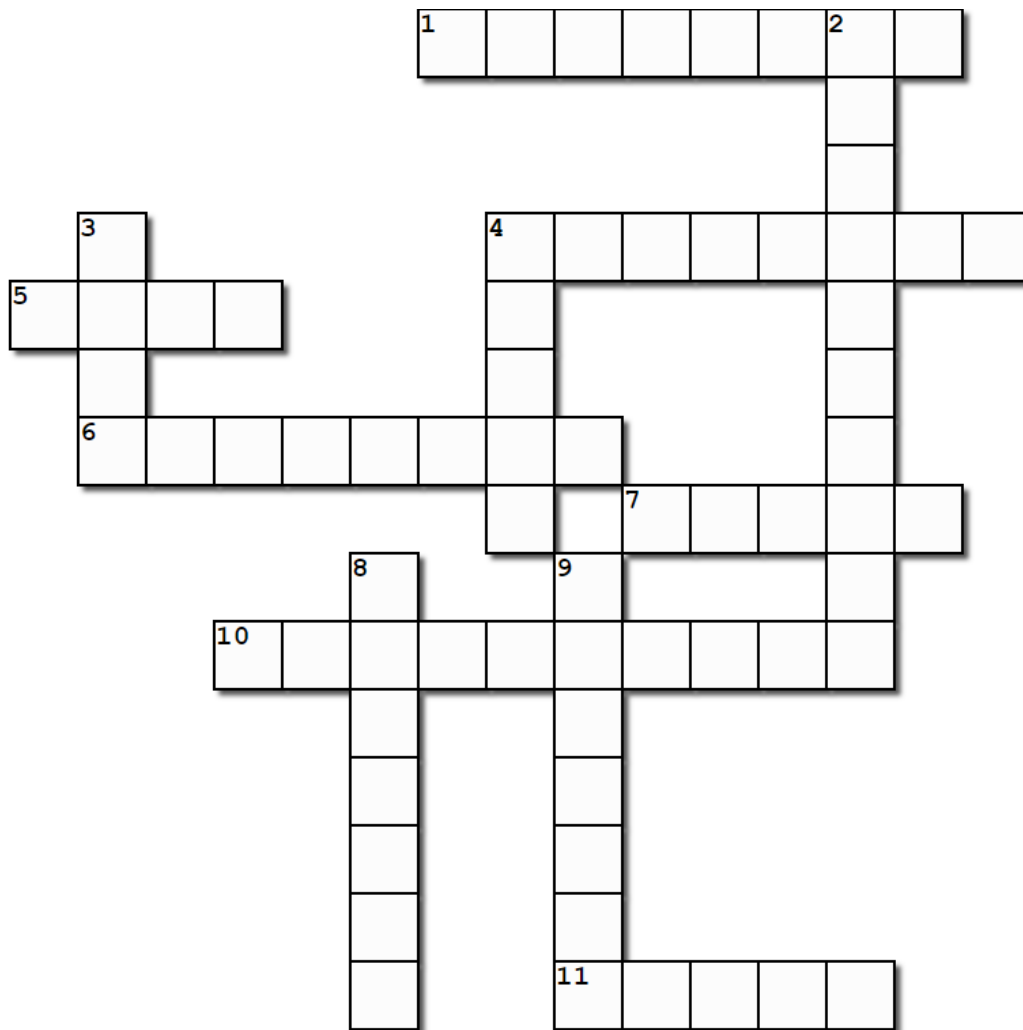
COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS- Pink Shirt Day

- In which month do we celebrate Pink Shirt Day?
a) January b) February c) March d) April
- What grade was Charles McNeill's in?
a) grade 5 b) grade 7 c) grade 9 d) grade 11
- In which province did this event happen?
a) Ontario b) Québec c) New Brunswick d) Nova Scotia
- Why was Charles McNeill's bullied?
a) He was smart. b) He wore pink. c) He had no friends. d) He didn't like sports.
- Who were David Shepherd and Travis Price?
a) bystanders b) teachers c) bullies d) parents
- What did David Shepherd and Travis Price do after witnessing the bullying?
a) nothing b) bought pink shirts c) talked to the bullies d) told a teacher
- Where is Pink Shirt Day celebrated? Choose the best answer.
a) in Nova Scotia b) in Ontario c) in Charles's school d) all across Canada
- Pink Shirt Day takes a stand against what two things? Circle two answers.
a) bullying b) racism c) homophobia d) stealing

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a) nothing **b) bought pink shirts** c) talked to the bullies d) told a teacher
7. Where is Pink Shirt Day celebrated? Choose the best answer.
b) in Nova Scotia b) in Ontario c) in Charles school **d) all across Canada**
8. Pink Shirt Day takes a stand against what two things? Circle two answers.
a) bullying b) racism **c) homophobia** d) stealing

CROSSWORD- Pink Shirt Day



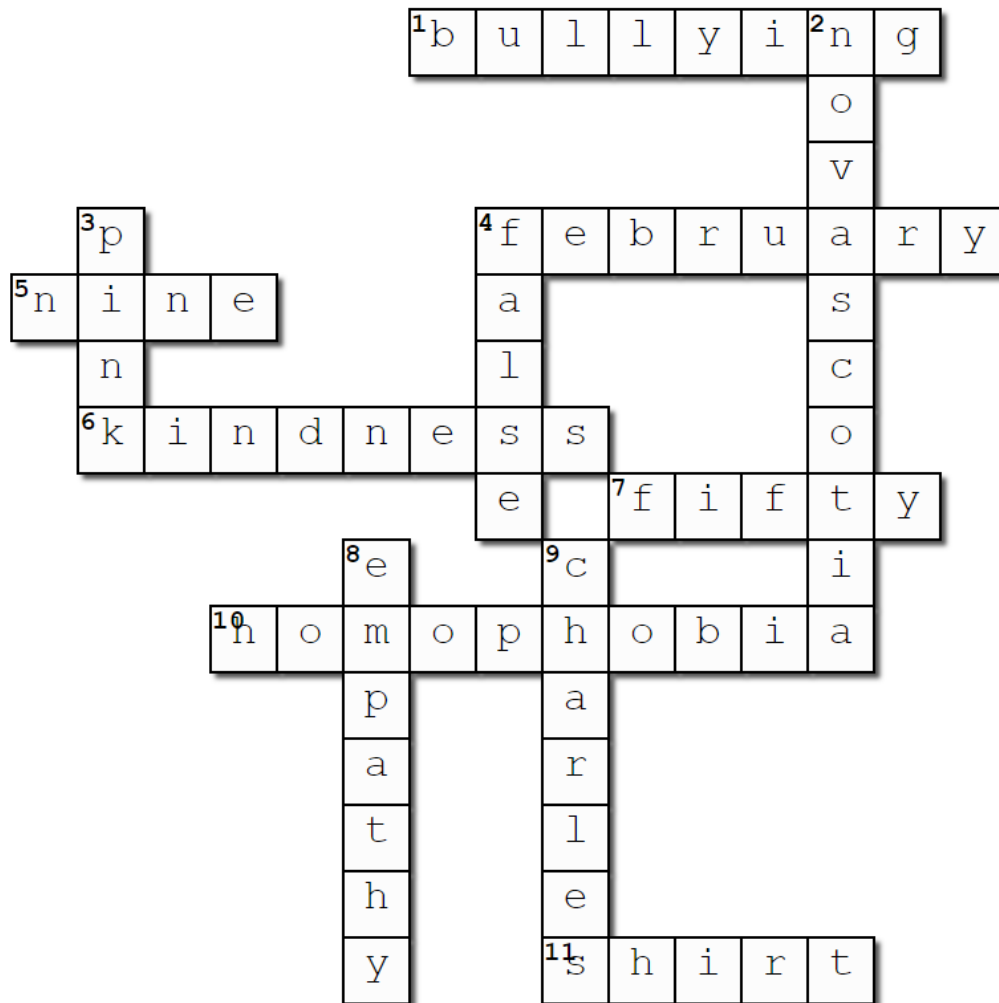
Horizontal

- 1. what Charles experienced
- 4. month that we celebrate this day
- 5. Charles was in grade ____
- 6. Expression: Act of ...
- 7. number of shirts bought and distributed
- 10. this day takes a stand against
- 11. Article of clothing worn

Vertical

- 2. province where this happened
- 3. colour worn on this day
- 4. A colour says a lot about a person. True or False?
- 8. when you are able to put yourself in someone's shoes
- 9. First name of target

CROSSWORD ANSWER: Pink Shirt Day



Horizontal

1. what Charles experienced (**bullying**)
4. month that we celebrate this day (**february**)
5. Charles was in grade ____ (**nine**)
6. Expression: Act of ... (**kindness**)
7. number of shirts bought and distributed (**fifty**)
10. this day takes a stand against (**homophobia**)
11. Article of clothing worn (**shirt**)

Vertical

2. province where this happened (**novascotia**)
3. colour worn on this day (**pink**)
4. A colour says a lot about a person. True or False? (**false**)
8. when you are able to put yourself in someone's shoes (**empathy**)
9. First name of target (**charles**)

Name: _____

WORD SEARCH- Pink Shirt Day

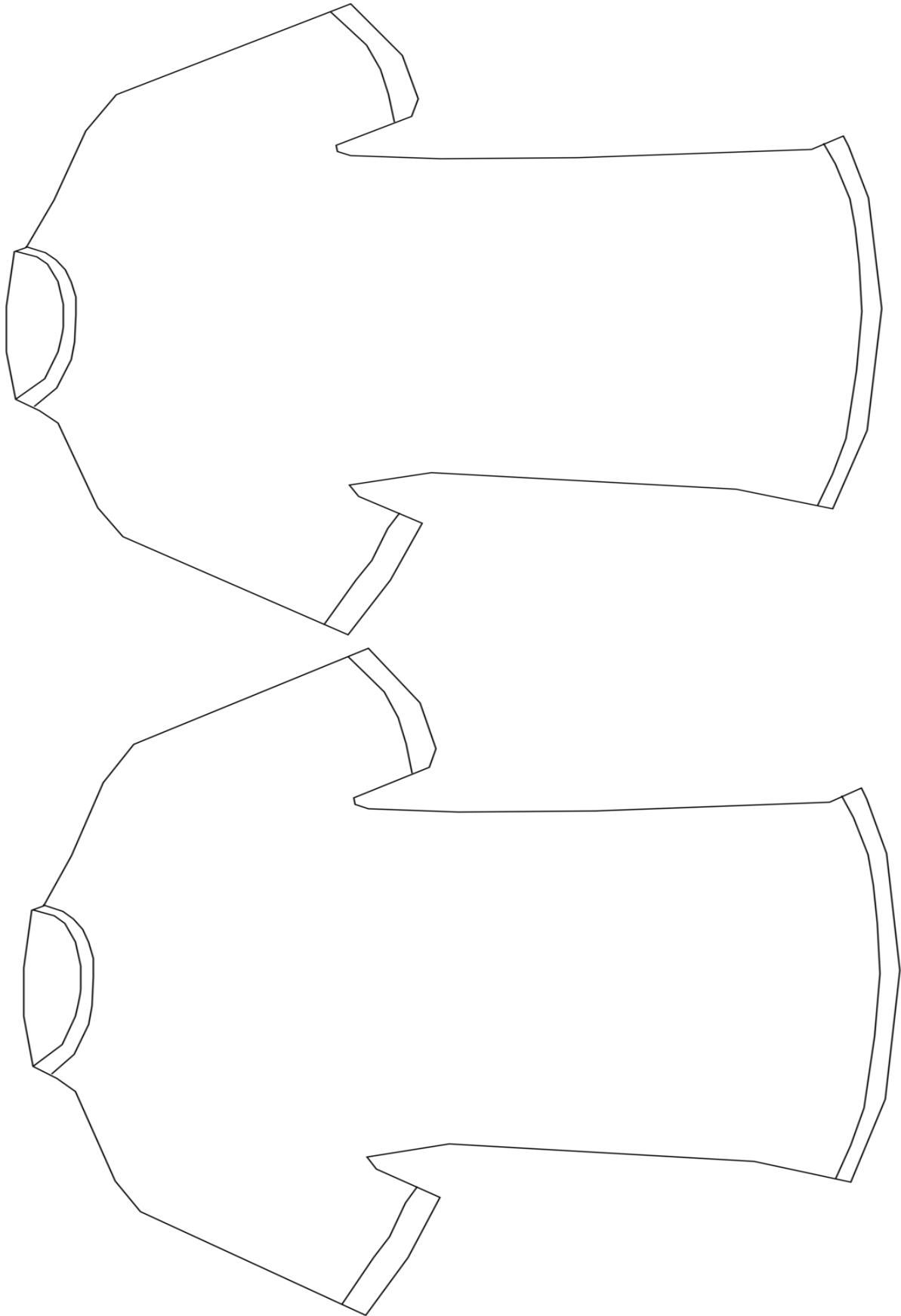
A N E C J S Q A A C H R S P H
P N F M H Q M D O K O E C S W
N T T I P L M M P F M D H M J
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T L N C R Y I G G K N I P U C
F E B R U A R Y S U H M C J V
P A B N G A C N I U H T K I I

ANTIBULLYING
EMPATHY
HOMOPHOBIA
PINK

BYSTANDER
FEBRUARY
KINDNESS
SCHOOL

COMPASSION
GRADENINE
NOVASCOTIA
SHIRT

ACTIVITY- Pink Shirt Day



B.R.A.V.E. – Pink Shirt Day

ACTIVITY- Pink Shirt Day

Each student will receive one shirt. Students can draw an image or write a few sentences about what they will do to stand up against bullying or homophobia. After, they can colour or outline the shirt in pink. This is a great way to decorate the classroom or school hallways.