

## Fighting with non-violence by Scilla Elworthy

### VOCABULARY:

1. Look at the example sentences below and in pairs try to match them to the definitions in the table:
  - a) In ancient times, the heads of criminals were often left in public to **intimidate** potential lawbreakers.
  - b) While Abby tried to be friends with the girls in the popular group, her twin brother was always trying to **undermine** her efforts by embarrassing her and saying dumb things.
  - c) Your son is becoming **a bully** and has been picking on some of the smaller boys in his class.
  - d) That means I need to know how I tick, where my **formidable** points are and where my weaker points are.
  - e) He rebelled against **oppression** and fought for freedom.
  - f) An **outraged** crowd which saw the burning of Qur'an demanded swift justice and retribution.
  - g) How do you reconcile the **dreadful** suffering and loss of life caused by the tsunami in South East Asia with the idea of a loving God?
  - h) The Opium War, also called the Anglo-Chinese War, was the most **humiliating** defeat China ever suffered.



WORD	DEFINITION
	to frighten someone especially in order to make them do what one
	grossly offended by non-compliance with standards of decency, morality, or good taste
	making someone feel ashamed and foolish by injuring their dignity and pride
	inspiring fear or respect through being impressively large, powerful, intense, or capable
	lessen the effectiveness, power, or ability of, especially gradually or harmfully
	prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or exercise of authority
	a person who uses strength or influence to harm or intimidate those who are weaker
	extremely bad or serious

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2. Choose four words from exercise 1 and make four questions starting with **why/when/where/how/which/what/who**:

- a) .....
- b) .....
- c) .....
- d) .....

DISCUSSION:

1. In small groups, discuss the following points:
  - How to fight with a bully?
  - How do we deal with extreme violence without using force in return?
  - Have you ever suffered from the three o'clock in the morning syndrome, when something you've been worrying about wakes you up? If yes, describe that situation and how you dealt with it.
  - What do you think of the reaction of U.S. Lieutenant Colonel Chris Hughes who told his soldiers to kneel when they were suddenly surrounded by an angry mob? Courageous or irresponsible?
  - Scilla Elworthy says that bullies use violence in three ways: they use political violence to intimidate, physical violence to terrorize and mental or emotional violence to undermine. What kind of examples of this could you think of?
  - Do you believe in non-violent resolution of conflicts as Scilla Elworthy does? Is this realistic approach or just a utopia?

