Walk a Mile in Another Person's Shoes

Instructions: With a partner, read through the scenarios, select two of them, then discuss what's happening. What are the characters feeling? How do their actions and words show this? How are they not being empathetic? Next, role-play the situations using strategies that show empathy toward one another.

1. A group of students is milling about in the hall. Micah teases Adam, a younger student, about not making the soccer team, and Adam argues back. The argument escalates to a shouting match.

2. You're excited to go out with your friends on Friday night, but your mom wants you to go out to dinner with the family. You refuse, your mother grounds you, and you storm to your room.

3. Sarah is telling Jeanne how hurt she is by her recent break-up with her boyfriend, but Jeanne isn't really paying attention and keeps changing the subject. Sarah eventually yells at Jeanne for not listening to her.

4. The bell is about to ring, and everyone is rushing to their next class. In the rush, Samantha accidentally knocks books out of Dan's hands. Everyone laughs and keeps moving on while Dan turns red and scurries to pick up his books.

5. You get your math test back only to discover you got a low grade. You're not surprised because you've been really busy getting ready for the school play, but when your friend picks up the test and starts showing everyone, you feel angry and embarrassed. You rip the test out of his hand and stomp away.

6. You have a big date this weekend and really want to borrow one of your sister's sweaters. When you ask her to borrow it, she says no because she doesn't want it to get ruined. You beg her, explaining that the date is very important, but she won't budge.