Read the story. Answer the questions.

1. How does Nabil feel today?
2. Is he hungry?
3. Does Nabil want to tell his mother what is bothering him?
4. Does Nabil have a problem with the teacher?
5. Is the big kid at school nice to Nabil?
6. What does he do to Nabil?
7. What happened at school today?
8. What does he say that Nabil has to give him?
9. Can Nabil solve this problem alone?
10. What is Nabil’s job at school?
11. Does Nabil break Herman’s arm?
12. Where do Nabil and his mother go in the morning?
13. Does the principal take care of the problem?
14. For how long is Herman suspended?
15. What does Herman need to do at lunchtime?
A Meeting with the Principal

My son is having serious problems with another boy at school.

The other boy has physically assaulted my son. He has hit and pushed him down. And yesterday he dumped out his backpack on the bus.

Yes. This boy has also threatened my son with physical violence if Nabil doesn’t give him money every day.

What kind of problems is he having?

I see. Are there any other problems to report?

These are very serious problems. I will call this boy and his parents in for a meeting. If what you say is true, he will be suspended from school.

Thank you for taking care of this situation.

You have the right to be safe at school, Nabil. Don’t forget that. You don’t have to put with treatment like this from anyone. Don’t worry. This boy will be punished.
Write the past tense of each verb. Then write a sentence in the past tense. Practice your pronunciation.

1. come
2. feel
3. forget
4. do
5. hit
6. push
7. open
8. dump out
9. give
10. tell
11. hurt
12. say
13. solve
14. go
15. report
16. break
17. handle
18. get out
19. pick up
20. bother
Mean Kid at School

Write the missing words.

Nabil is in _____ fourth grade. He comes home _______ school at 3:30. Today he feels _______. His face _____ red. He isn’t hungry.

“What’s the matter?” asks Nabil’s _____________.

“Oh, it’s nothing,” says Nabil.

“I can _______ that something is bothering ________, Nabil. What is it?”

“It’s _____________school,” answers Nabil. “It’s not important. Just forget about it.”

“No, Nabil. I am _______ forgetting about it. Do you have a problem in ___________? Is it the teacher? Do you have difficult _________?”

“No, Mom. It’s nothing ___________ that. There is this big kid in the fifth grade at _________________. He is mean _______ me.”

“What does he _________?” asks Nabil’s mother.

“Sometimes he __________ me or pushes me _____________. Today he opened _____ backpack and dumped everything _______. And ________ he says that I have to give_______ money every day. And if I don’t, he’s going to do ________________ terrible to me!”

“_________ is this person, Nabil? _________ me his name!”

“I can’t tell you, Mom! He will _____________ me!”

-----------------Family Literacy: Community-Based English Tutoring Program-----------------

Joint project by San Diego Unified and San Diego Community College District

Ann Gianola, October 1999
“_________ Nabil,” says his mother. “This is not the _______ of problem you can solve alone. We _________ to go to your school and report this _________. We need to _________ the principal and your teacher. Your job ___ school is to study hard and _____ a good student. You don’t have to put _______ with mean kids.”

“Mom, I am _____ angry. Tomorrow I want to go to school and break Herman’s _______!”

“No, Nabil. That’s not the _________ we handle our problems. Violence is _______ a good solution.”

The ___________ morning Nabil’s mother drives him to school. They get out of the ______ and go to _________ principal’s office together. Nabil tells the principal about his problems _______ Herman.

“Thanks _________ letting me know,” says the principal. “I will take care of this immediately. You don’t _________ to worry about Herman again.”

Later that ________ the principal calls Herman and his parents _____ for a meeting. Herman is suspended __________ school for ______week. He also needs to ________ up trash during lunchtime. He ___________ bother Nabil anymore. Nabil is __________ at school. And when he _________ home from school, he is __________________.