Ashley just updated her status:



It's done, we're signed up! Can't wait to play hockey all winter with my BFF Jane!

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Thomas: Hey, nice jersey Ashley! LOL! @*William* I think you just lost your girlfriend :p



Alicia: Yeah, sure looks that way! :p



William: Come on guys! So what, my girlfriend plays hockey with my sister once a week . . . We're not going to stop seeing each other!!!!



Thomas: LOL! The guy loses his girlfriend to his *sister*! Sooo pathetic! Hockey, girls, locker rooms . . . Makes sense, they're definitely dykes! Gross!



Ashley: WHAAAT?!!!! I'm with Will, not Jane!



William: Shut upThomas, my sister's not gay, and neither is my girlfriend! You're just jealous because Ashley always beats you in gym class.



Alicia: How would you know @*William*? I mean, COME ON! Your sister borrows your clothes, she never talks about boys ... and then there's the hockey thing! LOL! Wake up!Thomas is right! 1 + 1 = 2!!



Thomas : I'd rather lose to a dyke than be related to one . . . or worse, go out with one! *Puke*!



Alicia: @*Thomas*, you're such a jerk. Come on Ashley, nobody cares if you're a lesbian, so just stop pretending! You and William are totally fake and everybody knows it. Nobody cares anymore! Besides, you and Jane look good together!

In the preceding discussion, which characters talk like a *homophobius* (exhibit hostile homophobic behaviour)?

How is hostile homophobic behaviour evident in this discussion?

How will Jane feel at the end of this discussion ...

a) if she is heterosexual? b) if she is lesbian or bisexual? c) if she is unsure about her sexual orientation? d) if she is in love with Ashley?

What effects could this discussion have on these people and their relationships?

How does Thomas feel when he learns that Ashley and Jane have signed up for the girls' hockey team?

How could these people show openness in this situation?

REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YOU ARE A GIRL OR A BOY, YOU CAN BE INVOLVED IN THE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES THAT INTEREST YOU AND BRING YOU JOY. Self-confidence can allow you to express your preferences and interests and, perhaps, to contribute to the richness of diversity! And it's important to remember that a person's sexual orientation is not determined by his or her interests or recreational activities—you must therefore overcome whatever prejudices and stereotypes you may hold and respect each person as a unique individual!

The type of sport a person plays is not an indicator of his or her sexual orientation. A boy who does figure skating is not necessarily gay, just as a girl who plays hockey is not necessarily a lesbian.

How can we fight against homophobia in sports? What do you think can be done to counter it?