

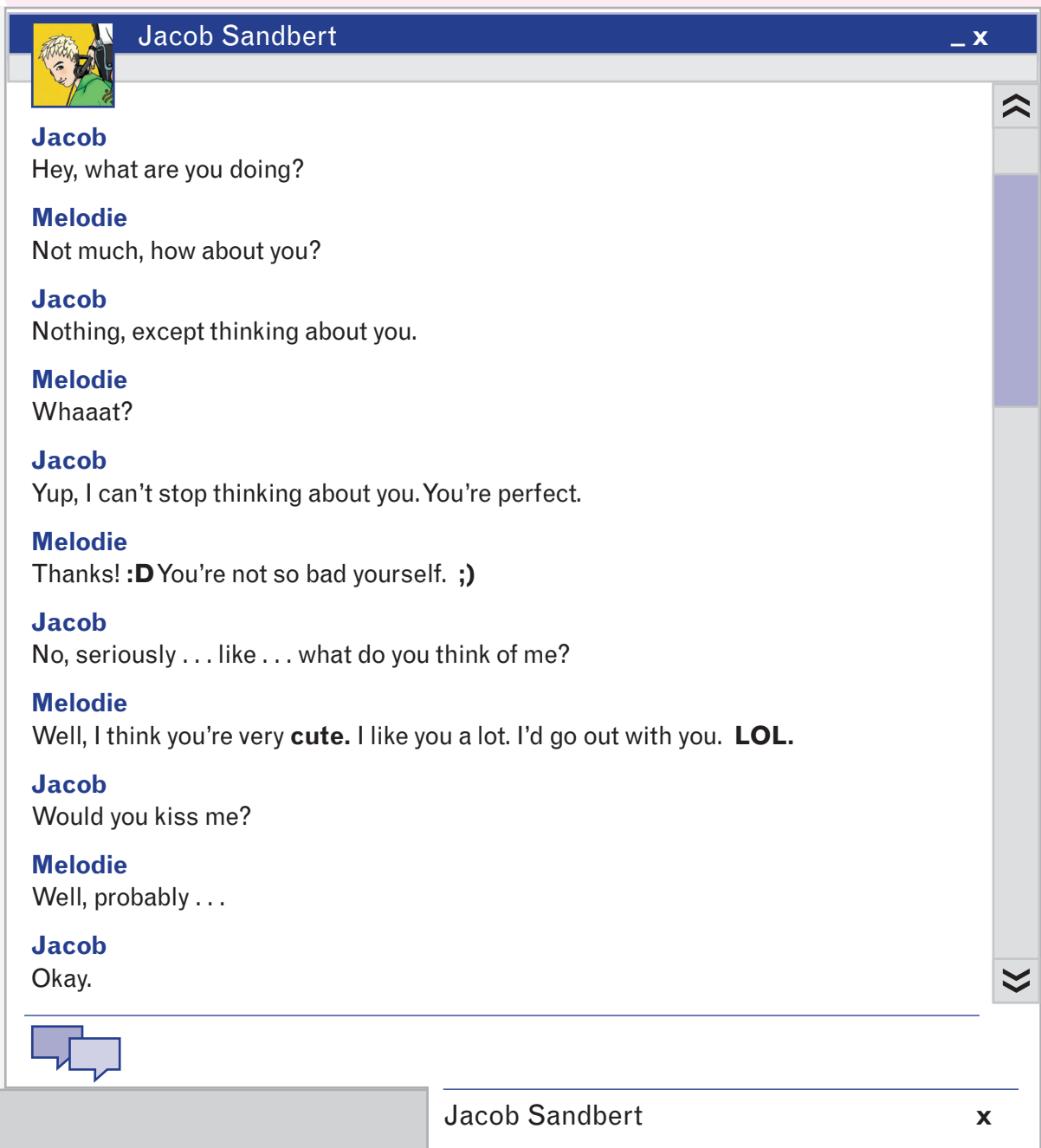
## CAUGHT IN THE TRAP!

Melodie is one of four close friends, but isn't usually the centre of attention in the group. On *Facebook*, she limits her number of friends by not accepting all the requests she receives. Her friend Stephanie tells her about another site, saying that everyone else now has an account and pressuring Melodie to join as well, even though she doesn't much like this kind of thing. Melodie hesitates, but eventually joins the new site. Stephanie suggests that Melodie's first posts should be in the form of questions, starting with: "**Who likes me?**" Stephanie feels that Melodie will get numerous responses, and will find out which boys have their eyes on her and who at school doesn't particularly like her.

*"The coolest thing," says Stephanie, "is that sometimes people post anonymously, so they can really say what they think. You don't need to guess whether or not it's true. You always end up knowing who they are as well. That's why it's so much fun."*

Melodie decides to go ahead. Just a few seconds after she posts her question, Jack545 answers: "Me!" She calls Stephanie right away, and asks her who Jack 545 is. Stephanie is excited: "*Jack 545? Wow! You're kidding me! It's Jacob! You know him, right? The really cute guy from the Indy rock group Heavy's Garage?*"

Flattered, Melodie writes to Jack 545: "*Jack, add me on Facebook. Melodie Agosto.*" A few minutes later, she receives a *Facebook* friend request from Jacob Sandbert, and they immediately start chatting.



The screenshot shows a Facebook chat window titled "Jacob Sandbert" with a close button (x) in the top right corner. On the left, there is a small profile picture of a young man with blonde hair wearing a green shirt. The chat history is as follows:

- Jacob**: Hey, what are you doing?
- Melodie**: Not much, how about you?
- Jacob**: Nothing, except thinking about you.
- Melodie**: Whaaat?
- Jacob**: Yup, I can't stop thinking about you. You're perfect.
- Melodie**: Thanks! :D You're not so bad yourself. ;)
- Jacob**: No, seriously . . . like . . . what do you think of me?
- Melodie**: Well, I think you're very **cute**. I like you a lot. I'd go out with you. **LOL**.
- Jacob**: Would you kiss me?
- Melodie**: Well, probably . . .
- Jacob**: Okay.

At the bottom of the chat window, there is a text input field with a speech bubble icon on the left and a close button (x) on the right.



The following day, at school, Melodie is excited to see Jacob and tell Stephanie all about her *Facebook* conversation with him. Stephanie suddenly appears and runs up to Melodie, out of breath, shouting at her to log in to her account on the new site. “*You won’t believe it, your conversation with Jack is everywhere on the site! He’s taken screen captures! Everyone’s commenting on it and they’re all laughing at you. He and his friends have really done a number on you!*”

Stephanie gets out her tablet and shows Melodie the new profile that Jacob and his friends have created, which they’ve called “**Melodie The Psycho.**” It contains the conversation she had with Jack, along with a lot of offensive comments and unpleasant questions. The comments include things like “**Mel is easy! All you have to do is chat with her for 30 seconds and she wants to kiss you.**” Many of the comments are anonymous and Melodie is upset.



- Why did Jacob write to Melodie on *Facebook*?
- How might Melodie feel as a result of what has happened?
- Do you think the people who posted anonymous comments on the site might get into trouble?
- What can be done to avoid this kind of situation, and how can they be resolved when they occur?
- Why do you think Stephanie enjoys this site?
- In the classroom or on the “Be cyber cool” platform, take a stance on the “Melodie the Psycho” profile and share your post with other students at the school.

