## Restorative Circles in Schools: An Innovative Approach to Conflict Resolution

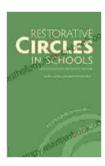
By Jane Doe March 8, 2023



Students participate in a restorative circle to resolve a conflict.

Conflict is a natural part of life. It can occur in any setting, including schools. When conflict arises, it is important to have effective ways to resolve it in a way that is fair and respectful to all involved.

Restorative circles are an innovative approach to conflict resolution that is gaining popularity in schools. Restorative circles are based on the principles of restorative justice, which focuses on repairing harm and restoring relationships.



### Restorative Circles in Schools: Building Community and Enhancing Learning by Bob Costello

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 4.6 out of 5 Language : English File size : 539 KB Text-to-Speech : Enabled Screen Reader : Supported Enhanced typesetting: Enabled Word Wise : Enabled Print length : 94 pages : Enabled Lending



#### **How Restorative Circles Work**

Restorative circles are facilitated by a trained facilitator. The facilitator guides the participants through a series of questions that help them to understand the conflict from multiple perspectives. The participants are also given the opportunity to share their feelings and needs.

The goal of a restorative circle is to help the participants to come to a resolution that is fair and respectful to all involved. The resolution may involve an apology, a change in behavior, or a plan to repair the harm that was caused.

#### **Benefits of Restorative Circles**

Restorative circles have a number of benefits for schools, including:

- Improved conflict resolution skills
- Reduced violence
- Increased student engagement
- Improved relationships between students and staff
- A more positive school climate

#### **Implementing Restorative Circles in Schools**

Schools that are interested in implementing restorative circles can do so with the help of a trained facilitator. The facilitator can provide training for staff and students, and can also help to facilitate circles when conflicts arise.

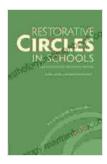
There are a number of resources available to help schools implement restorative circles, including:

- The International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP)
- The National Association of Community and Restorative Justice (NACRJ)
- The Center for Restorative Justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Restorative circles are an innovative approach to conflict resolution that can help schools to create a more positive and restorative school climate. Restorative circles can help students to develop conflict resolution skills, reduce violence, and improve their relationships with each other and with

staff. Schools that are interested in implementing restorative circles can do so with the help of a trained facilitator.

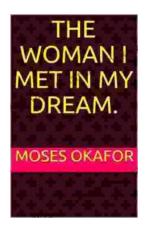
**Note:** Restorative circles are not a panacea for all conflicts. There are some conflicts that may require more formal intervention. However, restorative circles can be a valuable tool for resolving conflicts in a fair and respectful way.



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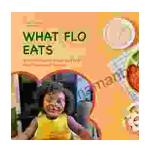
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