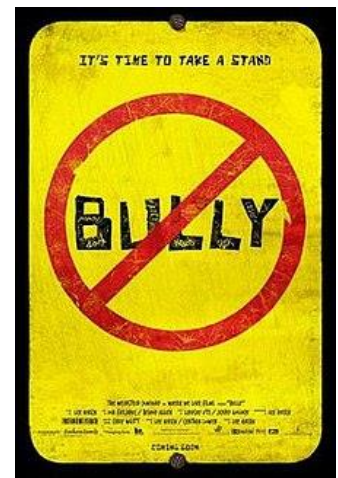


I first heard about *Thirteen Reasons Why* around April 2017 shortly after it came out. There was a lot of commotion around the show as it dealt with a sensitive topic, suicide, and also had the luxury of being produced by a famous musician. Because I was not busy at that time and I had a tendency to binge-watch Netflix for hours on end, I watched the first season of *Thirteen Reasons Why* in 1 night. Even though the premise of the show was about suicide and much of the advertisements I'd seen and what my friends had told me was related to suicide, I felt as if the majority of the show was about bullying and what it could cause. This reminded me of a documentary called *Bully*.

*Bully* dictates the lives of a small group of kids ranging from age 11 - 17 and how bullying impacts their lives. The film begins by discussing the suicide of a 17-year-old after he was bullied. Another kid was 11 when he committed suicide as a result of being bullied for his short height. The film follows 3 other kids as they are bullied throughout school, filming most of what happens to them. While *Thirteen Reasons Why* drew



criticism because it was viewed as unrealistic and dramatized, *Bully* is entirely true and follows the lives of real people and films their firsthand accounts of bullying. Even though *Thirteen Reasons Why* and *Bully* were both about how bullying and neglect by school officials could lead to unintended consequences, *Thirteen Reasons Why* received significantly more negative reviews than the other.

While this could be because *Thirteen Reasons Why* was far more popular than *Bully* and therefore received more attention, it portrayed a similar story to that found in *Bully*. In *Thirteen Reasons Why*, Hannah Baker committed suicide after being bullied relentlessly by her peers and finding no solace in the school officials. In *Bully*, two kids committed suicide after being bullied



relentlessly by their peers and finding no solace in the school officials. *Thirteen Reasons Why* received unnecessary amounts of criticism since it just attempted to deliver a story which would raise

awareness of suicide and bullying for teens. *Thirteen Reasons Why* brought a lot of attention to suicide and even though it was criticized for having graphic scenes, those scenes only help to portray how serious this issue is. Rape and suicide aren't topic that to be made light of and including those scenes, however graphic they may be, serves to further prove that point. Although it is not a perfect show, *Thirteen Reasons Why* succeeded in their goal to raise awareness about suicide and address a topic which others are too scared to talk about.