Character Education: Dealing with a Teaser

A girl in Franklin’s class makes fun of him almost every day in front of the other students. She laughs at his clothes and the way that he looks. Franklin gets along well with most of the children at school and tries hard to ignore Kathleen’s teasing, but many times he also gets angry with her. Yesterday, he saw Kathleen’s father picking her up from school, and heard her father yelling at her and calling her names. Franklin started to feel sorry for Kathleen. The next day at school, Kathleen makes fun of Franklin and calls him names. What should Franklin do? Should he stand up for himself or try to be kinder to Kathleen? Should he say something to Kathleen about what he saw the day before, when her father picked her up from school, or should he keep this to himself? What might the other students think if Franklin does not defend himself by getting angry with Kathleen? Have you been in a situation where someone is being unkind to you for no real reason? What would you do in Franklin’s situation?