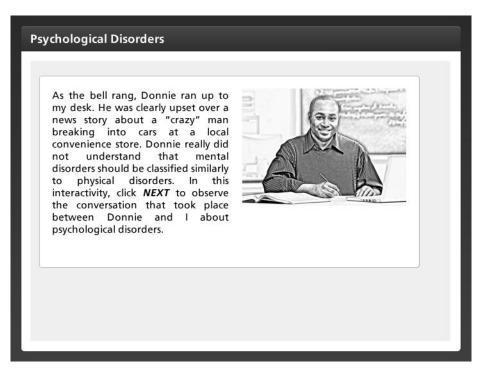
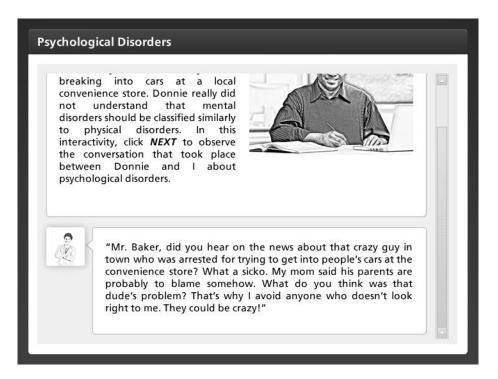
Introduction – Mr. Baker



As the bell rang, Donnie ran up to my desk. He was clearly upset over a news story about a "crazy" man breaking into cars at a local convenience store. Donnie really did not understand that mental disorders should be classified similarly to physical disorders. In this interactivity, click **NEXT** to observe the conversation that took place between Donnie and I about psychological disorders.



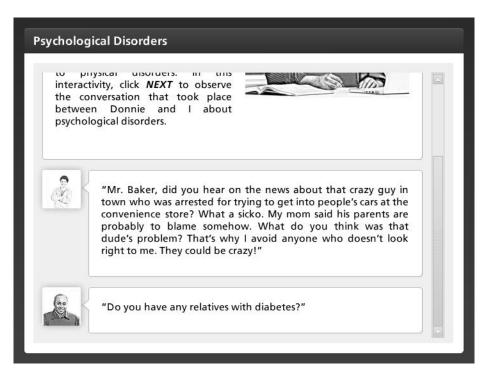
Donnie



"Mr. Baker, did you hear on the news about that crazy guy in town who was arrested for trying to get into people's cars at the convenience store? What a sicko. My mom said his parents are probably to blame somehow. What do you think was that dude's problem? That's why I avoid anyone who doesn't look right to me. They could be crazy!"



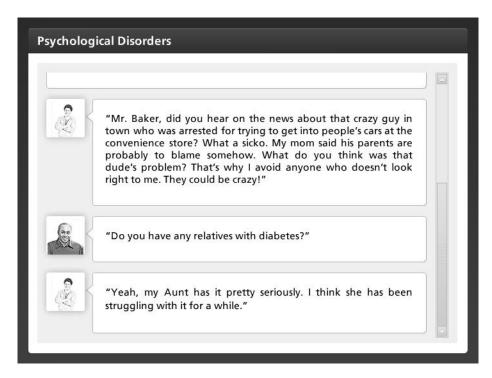
Mr. Baker



"Do you have any relatives with diabetes?"



Donnie



"Yeah, my Aunt has it pretty seriously. I think she has been struggling with it for a while."



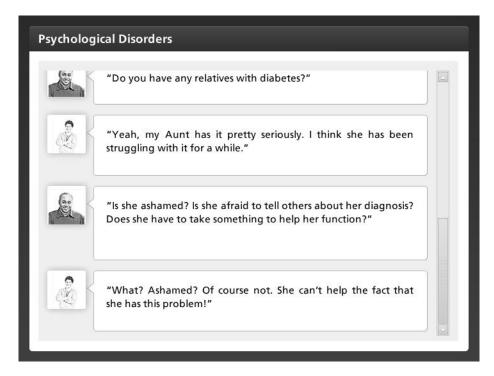
Mr. Baker



"Is she ashamed? Is she afraid to tell others about her diagnosis? Does she have to take something to help her function?"



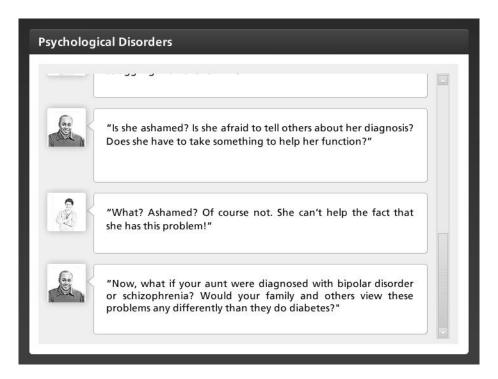
Donnie



"What? Ashamed? Of course not. She can't help the fact that she has this problem!"



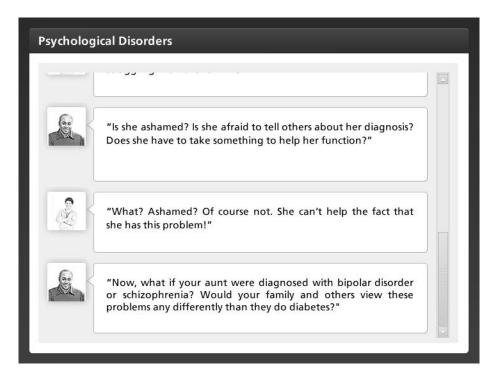
Mr. Baker



"Now, what if your aunt were diagnosed with bipolar disorder or schizophrenia? Would your family and others view these problems any differently than they do diabetes?"



Donnie



"Well, yeah."



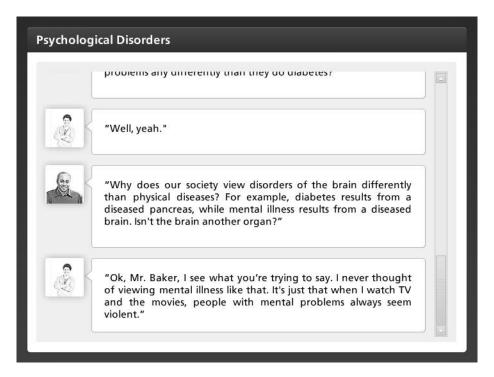
Mr. Baker

Psychological Disorders	
	she has this problem!"
E	"Now, what if your aunt were diagnosed with bipolar disorder or schizophrenia? Would your family and others view these problems any differently than they do diabetes?"
C SY	"Well, yeah."
	"Why does our society view disorders of the brain differently than physical diseases? For example, diabetes results from a diseased pancreas, while mental illness results from a diseased brain. Isn't the brain another organ?"

"Why does our society view disorders of the brain differently than physical diseases? For example, diabetes results from a diseased pancreas, while mental illness results from a diseased brain. Isn't the brain another organ?"



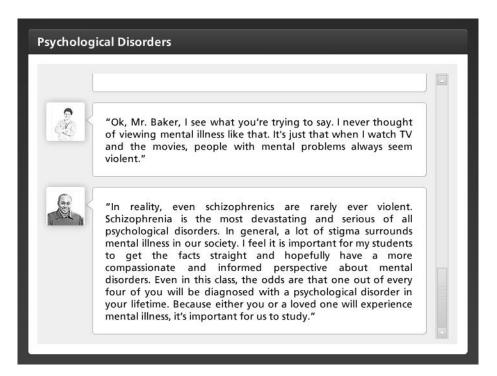
Donnie



"Ok, Mr. Baker, I see what you're trying to say. I never thought of viewing mental illness like that. It's just that when I watch TV and the movies, people with mental problems always seem violent."



Mr. Baker



"In reality, even schizophrenics are rarely ever violent. Schizophrenia is the most devastating and serious of all psychological disorders. In general, a lot of stigma surrounds mental illness in our society. I feel it is important for my students to get the facts straight and hopefully have a more compassionate and informed perspective about mental disorders. Even in this class, the odds are that one out of every four of you will be diagnosed with a psychological disorder in your lifetime. Because either you or a loved one will experience mental illness, it's important for us to study."

