

Thoughts Disguised as Feelings

NVC Chapter 4: Identifying and Expressing Feelings

(Based on a list prepared by Wisconsin IIT Participants – 2000, edited by Susan Skye; further adapted by Mary Kay Reinemann)

Evaluative word or thought	Feelings	Needs
Abandoned	Terrified, bewildered, sad,	Nurturing, connection, belonging, support,
Abused	Angry, frustrated, frightened	caring Caring, nurturing, support, emotional or physical well-being, consideration, need for all living things to flourish
(not) accepted	Upset, scared, lonely	Inclusion, connection, community, belonging, contribution, respect
Attacked	Scared, angry	safety
Belittled	Angry, frustrated, tense, distress	Respect, autonomy, to be seen, acknowledgment, appreciation
Betrayed	Angry, sad, disappointed, enraged, afraid	Trust, dependability, honesty, honor, commitment, clarity, to matter and belong
Blamed	Angry, scared, confused, sad, antagonistic, hostile, bewildered,	Accountability, causality, fairness, justice
Blessed	Happy, content, joyful	Love, to matter and belong, sustenance, safety, choice, trust
Bullied	Angry, scared, pressured	Autonomy, choice, safety, consideration,
Caged/boxed in	Angry, , scared, anxious	Autonomy, choice, freedom
Cheated	Resentful, angry, sad	Honesty, fairness, justice, trust, reliability, to matter and belong
Coerced	Angry, frustrated, frightened, , scared	Choice, autonomy, freedom,
Cornered	Angry, scared, anxious,	Autonomy, freedom
Criticized	In pain, scared, anxious, angry, frustrated, embarrassed	Understanding, acknowledgement, recognition, accountability, non-judgmental communication
Discounted/diminished	Sad, angry, embarrassed, frustrated	Need to matter, acknowledgment, inclusions, recognition, respect
Disliked	Sad, lonely,	Connection, appreciation, understanding, acknowledgment, friendship, inclusion
Distrusted	Sad, frustrated	Trust, honesty
Dumped on	Angry, overwhelmed	Respect, consideration
Harassed	Angry, frustrated, frightened, overwhelmed	Respect, space, consideration, peace
Hassled	Irritated, distressed, angry, frustrated	Serenity, autonomy, calm, space, freedom, peace



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Ignored	Lonely, scared, sad, embarrassed	Connection, belonging, inclusion, community, participation
Insulted	Angry, embarrassed	Respect, consideration,
Interrupted	Angry, frustrated, resentful, sad	Respect, to be heard, consideration
Intimidated	Scared, frightened, anxious	Safety, equality, power in my world
Invalidated	Angry, resentful, sad	Appreciation, respect,
Invisible	Sad, angry, lonely, scared	To be seen and heard, inclusion, belonging, community
Isolated	Lonely, afraid, scared	Community, inclusion, belonging, contribution
Left out	Sad, lonely, anxious	Inclusion, belonging, community, connection
Let down	Sad disappointed, frightened	Consistency, trust, dependability,
Loved	Happy, content, peaceful, joyful	To matter and belong, friendship, love, trust, safety
Manipulated	Angry, scared, frustrated	Autonomy, power, trust, equality, freedom, choice, connection, authenticity
Mistrusted	Sad, angry	trust
Misunderstood	Upset, angry, frustrated	To be heard, understanding, clarity
Neglected	Lonely, scared	Connection, inclusion, participation, community, care, belonging, consideration
Overpowered	Angry, helpless, confused	Equality, justice, autonomy, freedom
Overworked	Angry, tired, frustrated	Respect, consideration, rest, caring
Patronized	Angry, frustrated, resentful	Recognition, equality, respect, mutuality