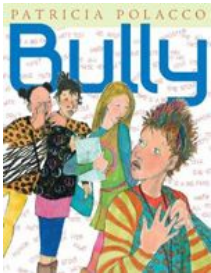
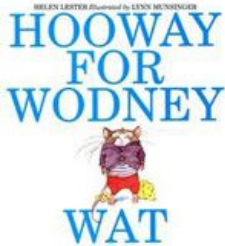


# Anti-Bullying Picture Books and Resources



## [Bully](#)

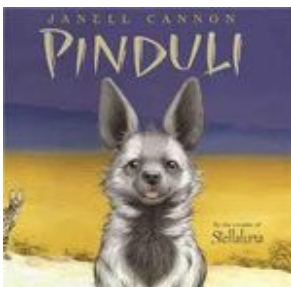
Lyla finds a great friend in Jamie on her first day of school, but when Lyla makes the cheerleading squad and a clique of popular girls invites her to join them, Jamie is left behind. Lyla knows bullying when she sees it, though, and when she sees the girls viciously teasing classmates on Facebook, including Jamie, she is smart enough to get out. But no one dumps these girls, and now they're out for revenge.



## [HooWay for Wodney Wat](#)

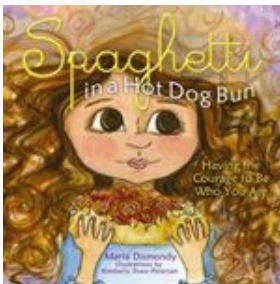
*His real name was Rodney Rat, but he couldn't pronounce his r's. To make matters worse, he was a rodent. A wodent.*

When Camilla Cappybara joins Wodney's class and announces that she is bigger, meaner, and smarter than all the other rodents, everyone is afraid especially Wodney. Read along with Wodney as he surprises himself and his classmates by single-handedly saving the whole class from the big bad bully r's or no r's.



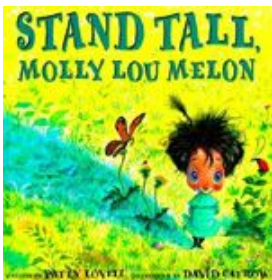
## [Pinduli](#)

Pinduli's mama has always told her that she's the most beautiful hyena ever. But Dog, Lion, and Zebra don't think so. Why else would they make her feel so rotten about her big ears, her fuzzy mane, and her wiggly stripes? Poor Pinduli just wants to disappear--and she tries everything she can think of to make that happen. Yet *nothing* goes her way. Nothing, that is, until a case of mistaken identity lets her show the creatures of the African savanna how a few tiny words--bad or good--can create something enormous.



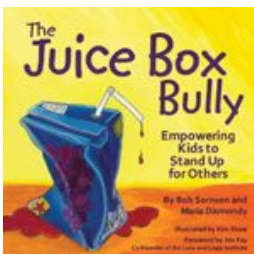
## [Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun](#)

Lucy is one of a kind and Ralph loves to point that out. Lucy's defining moment comes when Ralph truly needs help. Because she knows what she stands for, Lucy has the courage to make a good choice. This charming story empowers children to always do the right thing and be proud of themselves, even when they are faced with someone as challenging as Ralph.



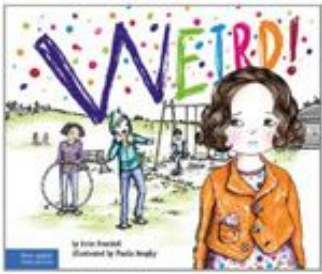
## [Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon](#)

Molly Lou Melon may be tiny, clumsy, buck-toothed, and with a voice "like a bullfrog being squeezed by a boa constrictor," but she doesn't mind. Her grandmother has utmost confidence in her, and tells her at every turn to believe in herself. "Sing out clear and strong and the world will cry tears of joy," Grandma says. But Molly Lou's self-assurance is put to the test when she moves to a new town, away from her friends and beloved grandmother. During her first week of school, Ronald Durkin taunts Molly Lou Melon in the dull-witted but sharp-edged manner of career bullies, calling her "shrimpo" and "bucky-toothed beaver." Our heroine barely flinches as she systematically sets out to prove herself, and Ronald Durkin ends up feeling pretty foolish.



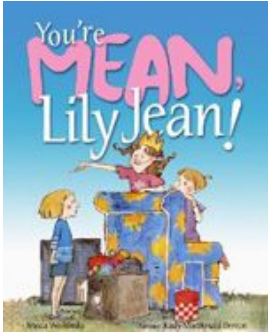
## [The Juice Box Bully](#)

Have you ever seen a bully in action and done nothing about it? The kids at Pete's new school get involved, instead of being bystanders. When Pete begins to behave badly, his classmates teach him about "The Promise". Will Pete decide to shed his bullying habits and make "The Promise"?



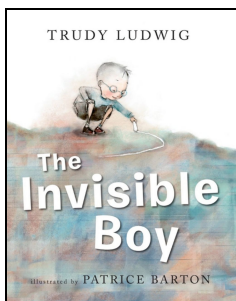
### [Weird!, Dare!, Tough!](#)

These three books tell the story of an ongoing case of bullying from three third graders' perspectives. Luisa describes being targeted by bullying in *Weird!* Jayla shares her experience as a bystander to bullying in *Dare!* And in *Tough!*, Sam speaks from the point of view of someone initiating bullying. Kids will easily relate to Luisa, Jayla, and Sam, as each girl has her own unique experience, eventually learning how to face her challenges with the help of friends, peers, and caring adults.



### [You're Mean, Lily Jean](#)

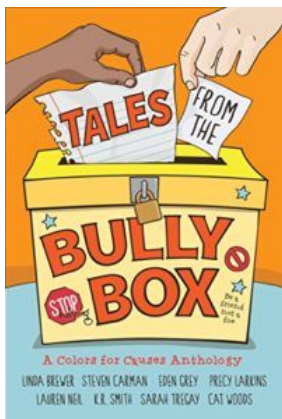
Carly always played with her big sister, Sandy. They played dragons and knights. They played explorers and pirates. They played mountain climbers and astronauts. Then Lily Jean moved in next door. Carly and Sandy are happy to have a new friend join their games. But Lily Jean changes everything. She decides they'll play house and orders Carly to be the baby. When they play king and queen, she tells Carly to bark--King Lily Jean demands a royal dog! Tired of being bossed around, Carly comes up with a way to teach Lily a lesson. With Sandy's help, can she turn a bully into a friend?



### [The Invisible Boy](#) by Trudy Ludwig

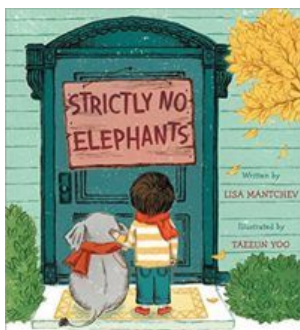
A very similar story to *The Oak Inside the Acorn*, Ludwig writes about a boy named Brian who is basically "invisible" to his classmates and the other children at school. As the story continues, Brian befriends a new student and together they bring out the best in each other and help each other grow more confident socially. The story is a great lesson in the importance of friendship, in helping quieter or more reclusive students and how small acts of kindness can make all the difference. The best part of the book is how relatable the story is. There are students across the country who have found themselves in Brian's situation before and thus the story has a lot of applicable lessons to be taught. Illustrations by Patrice Barton are unique and really help accompany the mood of the story.

It is a must read for elementary school students and their parents.



### [Tales from the Bully Box](#) by Cat Woods, Sarah Tregay, Lauren Neil, Steven Carman, Linda Brewer, Eden Grey, K.R. Smith, Precy Larkins

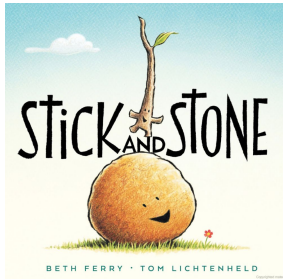
Tales from the Bully Box is an example of real life stories that can make an impact as well. The book is really a collection of short stories about bullying from students of all walks of life. The subject matter is diverse and the book also includes discussion questions for students to walk through with their parents and/or teachers. The stories also don't just give examples of bullying but also give examples of how to deal with bullying in impactful ways. There is something about the fact that these stories are from real students that help them really hit home and in many ways, the stories can help students understand the impact of their words and their actions.



### [Strictly No Elephants](#) by Lisa Mantchev

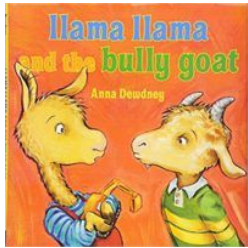
When a boy's pet elephant is explicitly excluded from joining the local Pet Club, the boy sets out to show the other animals the error in their ways. Taeun Yoo does an incredible job with the illustrations and Mantchev's story about friendship and inclusion is smartly written and full of important lessons. The story is told from the boy's perspective, adding depth to the lessons within and the story is so highly rated on Amazon and other sites that it has become an instant best-seller. By the end of the story, you can't help but root for the little boy and his elephant who, rather than tell the other pets "I told you so", decides to turn the other cheek in an

impressive display of inclusion. The book works for children ranging in age from 2-10 and its message about acceptance is worth teaching to adults as well.



Stick and Stone by Beth Ferry

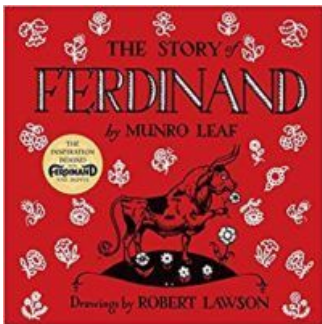
Sometimes the simplest message is the most effective message and that much is true in Ferry's ode to friendship. Ferry intentionally kept the story lighthearted and adventurous and it is easy for students to identify with the quiet Stone, the more formal Stick, or even the prickly Pinecone. The story is told in rhyming couplets and its lessons on the importance of friendship in the face of bullying are easy to spot. Plus, illustrations from Tom Lichtenheld aren't overly dramatic and but the colors help bring out the warm and tender emotions.



Llama Llama and the Bully Goat by Anna Dewdney

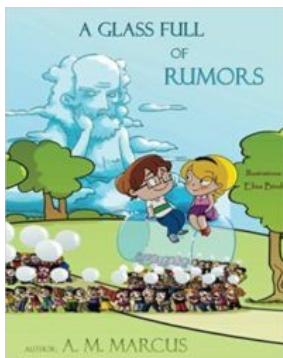
Gilbert Goat is a bit of a bully who makes school for the other animals not as fun. Luckily Llama Llama isn't afraid to let Gilbert know what he thinks of his behavior. Even more fortunately, Gilbert has the self-awareness to see the error in his ways and everyone ends up friends. Okay, so the characters aren't quite that developed but this is a book for children in preschool and kindergarten, so you must be impressed with the young animals' diplomacy. The story will make young children laugh and will teach them that turning the other cheek is the best strategy when facing a bully. The

pastel illustrations are easy on the eyes as well. Anna you are forever remembered by Llama Llama and the impact it's made on our youth.



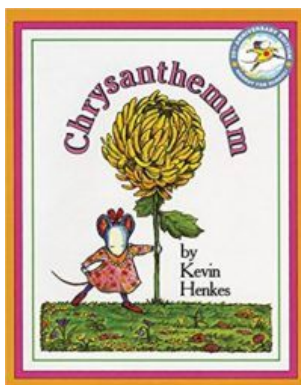
The Story of Ferdinand by Munro Leaf

Ferdinand is perhaps one of the most famous anti-bullying bulls in children's literature, thanks entirely to his role as the main character in the classic book by Leaf. Accompanied by the detailed pen sketches of Robert Lawson, Ferdinand is a cool, calm and collected bull that has plenty to teach about the virtues of pacifism and contentment. The story has a feel-good ending that will resonate with children and adults alike and it is hard for everyone not to wish they had a little bit more Ferdinand in them when they finally put the book down.



A Glass Full of Rumors by A.M. Marcus

Already an accomplished self-help and self-improvement author, A.M. Marcus was on the mark again with A Glass Full of Rumors. The book is quick and easy to read, the storytelling is top-notch and the illustrations from Elisa Bindi are colorful and bright. Children won't struggle to pick up on the dangers and harm of rumors and they may even get to learn a bit about Socrates long before high school. The book has a fun and happy ending and teachers and parents rave about the usefulness of the message and the lighthearted content.

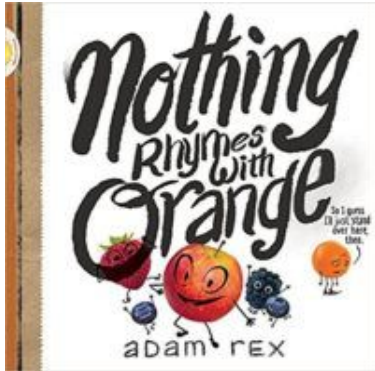


Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes

Chrysanthemum is an award-winning and immensely popular children's book from the early 1990s that deals with self-esteem and teasing in a fun read that may even make parents legitimately laugh out loud once or twice. If you have a unique name, chances are, you have probably been teased for it. Chrysanthemum is a new kindergartner who, as you might imagine, is dealing with that same issue. The teasing from other girls is tough to read, but the

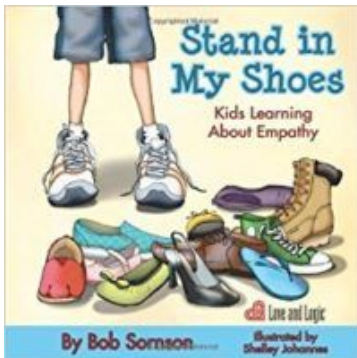


story has a much-needed happy and light ending and seamlessly weaves lessons for children and their parents on how to handle hurtful teasing at school.



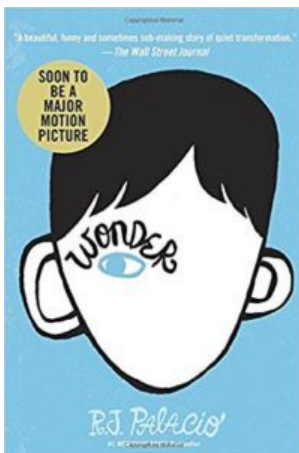
#### Nothing Rhymes with Orange by Adam Rex

Go ahead. Think of a word that rhymes with orange. We will wait. Hats off to Rex, who had us smirking throughout his fresh read about embracing differences and celebrating absurdity. The concept is funny. The songs are funny. The made-up words are creative and funny. And the illustrations, which Rex also did, aren't too shabby either. It has some worthwhile lessons for children mixed into and in between the singing and frankly any time you can work in a lesson on the pronunciation of the name Friedrich Nietzsche into a children's book, you deserve a pat on the back for your efforts.



#### Stand in My Shoes: Kids Learning About Empathy by Bob Sornson PhD

A lifelong teacher and school administrator, Bob Sornson is also the founder of the Early Learning Foundation and the developer of an early learning success model. This makes him the perfect author for a book about young kids learning about empathy for the first time. The story follows Emily as she learns about how empathy changes her perception of people. Kindergarten and early elementary school teachers use *Stand in My Shoes* as a key resource for teaching students about having respect for and showing kindness to others. It is easy to read and Shelley Johannes does a terrific job of portraying the emotions in the illustrations. It is less of a story than a learning resource but it is still fun to read.



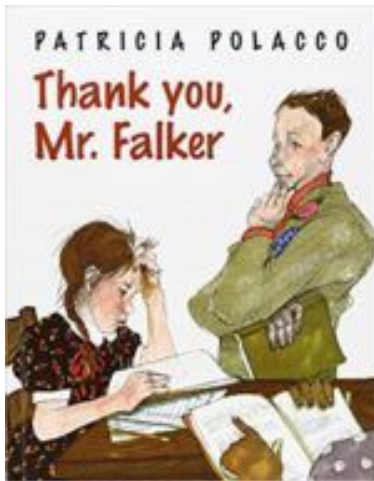
#### Wonder by R.J. Palacio

*Wonder* is a No. 1 *New York Times* bestseller and will soon be turned into a movie starring Julia Roberts, so its popularity is unquestioned. It is a tremendous feat of storytelling by Palacio and it encompasses multiple perspectives as young Auggie Pullman learns to navigate 5th grade while dealing with noticeable facial deformities that cause most people to avoid him. Parents' of children with similar issues rave about how relatable Auggie is and they appreciate the attention to detail that Palacio put into portraying Auggie's struggles. The book is full of lessons but just generally speaking, the humanity of children like Auggie and the compassion of his friends and family are the biggest takeaways from a wonderful read.



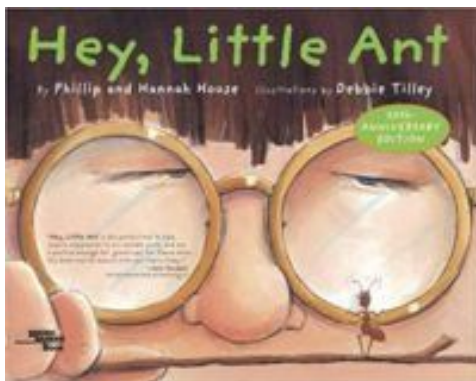
#### Captain Underpants and the Terrifying Return of Tippy Tinkletrousers by Dave Pilkey

The *Captain Underpants*' series is a personal favorite and when George and Harold travel back in time and are forced to confront **sixth-grade bully** Kipper Krupp, Pilkey is at his best. Without the services of their trusty Captain Underpants (who wasn't invented yet), George and Harold are forced to **outwit their tormenting bully and Pilkey comes up with an exciting and lighthearted way for them to win**. The book is lighthearted and goofy by design, making it a fun read for older elementary school students and even middle schoolers, but Pilkey also manages to **weave in some legitimately worthwhile anti-bullying messages**, which is why it lands on this list.



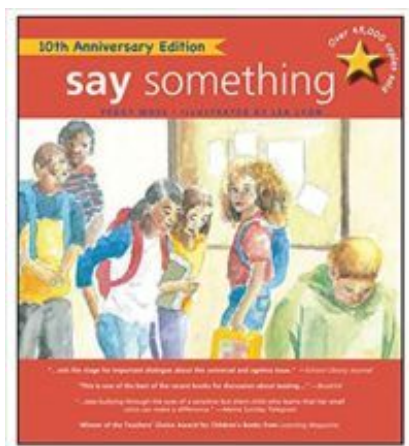
### Thank You, Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco

The story isn't really about bullying, it is more about helping students and teachers learn the positive impact of encouragement and reinforcement, but it works on this list because of its important lessons. How about some kudos for Mr. Falker? The teacher recognizes that his student, Trisha, is dyslexic and that while she is a terrific artist, she struggles with words on a page. Luckily, Mr. Falker is the type of teacher who doesn't just support her, he also encourages her to overcome her disability. What makes the story especially meaningful is that Polacco, a well-known children's author, struggled with dyslexia herself. The story won't wow you with twists and turns, but it will make you smile by the end.



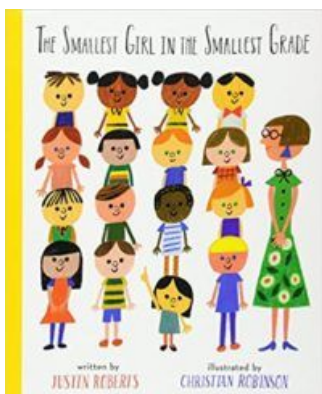
### Hey, Little Ant by Phillip and Hannah Hoose

The father-daughter combination of Phillip and Hannah Hoose originally created this story as a song but the cartoon sketches from Debbie Tilley and the clever lyrics make the story just as worthwhile in the pages of a book. Everyone has had the urge to squish an ant. But the Hooses turn that idea on its head by asking what if the ant could speak and feel? Again, the story itself doesn't directly touch on bullying, but it does talk about not just following the crowd and learning to have empathy for other humans and creatures. It challenges the assumptions of children and does so in a playful, sing-song way.



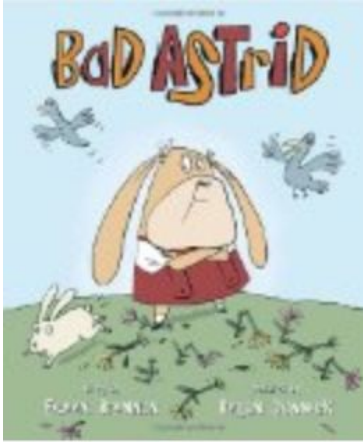
### Say Something by Peggy Moss

Moss tackles the ever-present issue of teasing by specifically talking about what someone should say when they see someone else being teased. The main character of the story sees teasing happening all around her, but at first, she stays silent. When the tables are turned on her, she quickly realizes that being an innocent bystander won't work any longer. She uses the newfound empathy to comfort other targets of bullying and prove the harmfulness of teasing and the power of friendship. The illustrations from Lea Lyon do a wonderful job of depicting the emotions of the characters and Moss even includes some discussion questions at the end to make sure the lessons really hit home.



### The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade by Justin Roberts

A Grammy award-winning children's musician by day, Justin Roberts, with help from illustrator Christian Robinson, tells a rhyming tale about a small girl who, despite her size, stands up to bullying in an effective way. The content is light (the book is designed for kindergartners after all) but the story moves quickly and the messages hit home with regularity. The illustrations are vibrant and adorable and only make it easier to root for little Sally McCabe as she crusades against bullying on the playground.

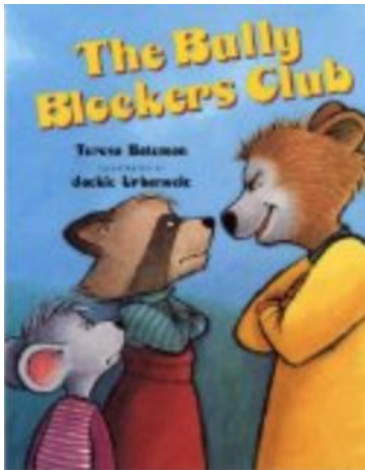


Bad Astrid written by Eileen Brennan and illustrated by [Regan Dunnick](#)

From the moment Astrid and her family move into a new neighborhood, she is unpleasant. She chases, teases and is destructive. Ignoring her and keeping busy seems to be the best solution until one day Astrid has a bad accident while riding her bike. She needs help. Her victim hesitates to step forward. She asks, “*Why are you mean to me?*”. Astrid’s explanation surprises her remarkably forgiving neighbor and the two girls discover a way to be friends.

When reviewing antibullying picture books, we prefer stories that resolve the bullying problem *realistically*. Although Astrid’s bike crash and her victim’s willingness to forgive her past deeds provide a somewhat ‘magical’ solution to a serious bullying problem, we think there is lots to appreciate about Bad Astrid. Fun cartoon-like illustrations, playful word art and rhyming text will have *special appeal for older readers* and may make this

an excellent discussion-starter about bullying for primary-grade classrooms.



The Bully Blockers Club written by Teresa Bateman and illustrated by [Jackie Urbanovic](#)

Lotty Raccoon is excited to begin a new school year. She leaves her house with new shoes, new backpack and a positive outlook. Moments after she sits at her new desk, Grant Grizzly begins his taunting, “*I’m Grant Grizzly and I say there’s a smell, and it’s coming from around you.*”

Lotty does not react immediately. She talks with her siblings after school. Lotty’s younger brother suggests a karate chop could be the answer and her older sister suggests ignoring him. Lotty is not interested in the “karate chop” solution but she thinks ignoring Grant Grizzly might work.

The following day, Lotty ignores Grant Grizzly but unfortunately, the abuse continues. After further discussion at home, Lotty’s sister suggests that Lotty try to be Grant’s friend while her brother suggests joking about it. She tries both approaches without success. The next step is to get Lotty’s mom and dad involved. They contact Lotty’s teacher and she promises to be watchful but, whenever her back is turned, Grant continues his bullying.

Finally, after noticing that Grant only bullies when adults are not watching, Lotty arrives at a creative and very empowering solution to her problem. She enlists the help of her friends whenever Grant picks on someone.

*That afternoon, when Grant grabbed Lotty’s crayons, Barney said, “Hey, what are you doing?”*

*“Yeah,” said Laurie. “Those aren’t yours.”*

*By now everyone, including Mrs. Kallberg was watching.”*

*Grant turned red, and handed the crayons back.*

The Bully Blockers Club’s bold illustrations are well-suited to sharing in a group setting. The facial expressions effectively depict the emotions of the bully, the bullied and the bystanders.

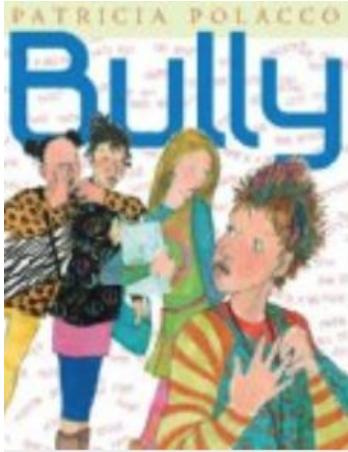
After Notes include suggestions for parents and teachers including a description of the “**TELL IT system.**” This anti bullying system suggests children should



- Think before they react
- Express themselves by stating how they feel
- Leave the situation
- Laugh
- Ignore
- Tell an adult

The After Notes also suggest that Lotty's decision to create a supportive group can be an effective way to curtail bullying.

The Bully Blockers Club is best suited to children aged five and up.



Bully – written and illustrated by [Patricia Polacco](#)

When Lyla's family moves house, she and her brother each switch to new schools. Lyla feels anxious about the transition but soon meets a new friend and is very happy to discover that he is in her homeroom class. Jamie and Lyla get along well so Lyla is not isolated but before long she discovers the many cliques at her new school: Geeks and Nerds, Toughs, Skateboarders, Athletes and *the Celebrities*.

As Lyla gains confidence at her new school, she starts to earn some very good grades and a spot on the cheerleading team. Jamie warns her, "*That's Gage, Maeve and Kenyon's territory, Lyla. Be careful!*"

Lyla settles in to her new class and appears content but she does notice that almost all of her classmates have cell phones. Jamie urges her to get a cell phone, a laptop and a Facebook account. Soon Lyla and her brother are trying to convince their parents to allow them to have phones. Their parents agree but warn that, if not used properly, the online privileges will be lost.

Jamie helps Lyla and her brother to set up their Facebook accounts and Lyla takes pride in their friendship and his position of trust at school.

*Gage, Maeve and Kenyon were actually starting to be nice to me. I wasn't good enough to sit at the celebrity table, though, until the Mid-Year Awards Assembly...Gage usually got this award, but she seemed really happy that I got it. That's when she invited me to sit with them at the celebrity table at lunch..*

Initially, Lyla finds the attention from the coolest girls exciting – she so wants to enjoy their popularity. The friendship sours, however, when the girls spend time surfing Facebook and commenting on classmates' pages. They call this "scum dumping." Lyla knows the bullying behavior is wrong and is especially upset when horrible comments are made on Jamie's Facebook page. Lyla's friendship with *the Celebrities* ends when she stands up for Jamie but the girls warn her, "*No one dumps us, Lyla. We do the dumping.*"

Sadly for Lyla the bullying does not end there. When an important test is compromised at school, Lyla is wrongly accused of stealing it and she becomes a victim of cyberbullying.

Bully is an excellent anti bullying picture book for older readers and a valuable resource for middle grade classrooms. Ms. Polacco's depicts a racially diverse student population. As well, she presents a realistic and complex social situation without lecturing. She invites her readers to consider the question, "What would you do?"



Bully 101 written and illustrated by [Doretta Groenendyk](#)

*Want to ensure you get your way?*

*Just mess up another kid's day.*

*Push them and shove them and give them a scare.*

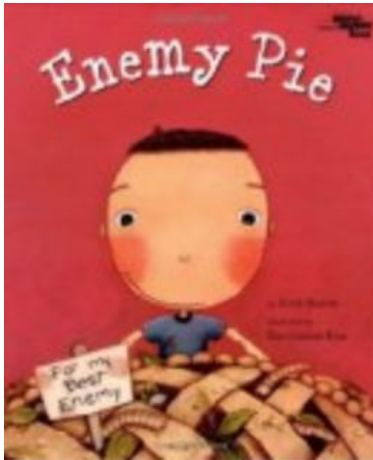
*Our bullies love fear and thrive on a dare.*

Students who attend a class called Bully 101 learn that the best solution to feeling poorly about themselves is to make another child feel terrible. Bullies steal notebooks on the school bus, damage clothing, ostracize good students, spread rumors and make jokes. Sometimes they even resort to physical violence. For those who feel badly about their 'course selection,' there is an alternative class: Kindness 202.

Suited to primary and middle grade students, Bully 101 includes rich language: *demoralize, humiliate, thrive* and striking collage illustrations that will appeal to older readers.

Best at identifying bullying behaviors, Bully 101 implies that Kindness 202 is a happier, more inclusive choice. It does not problem-solve suggestions for victims or bystanders. Essentially the story suggests that choosing kindness will have a happier outcome for all – including those who are currently making poor choices.

Bully 101 takes a simplistic approach to the terrible problem of bullying that will not be appropriate in every circumstance but there are good reasons to use it as a discussion-starter in a primary or middle grade classroom. As well, Ms. Groenendyk's fascinating illustrations could be used as a jumping off point for exploring this timely theme with young artists.



Enemy Pie written by [Derek Munson](#) and illustrated by [Tara Calahan King](#)

When Jeremy Ross moves into the neighbourhood, it spoils an otherwise perfect summer. He joins the baseball team and laughs when another baseball player strikes out. He has a party but doesn't invite everyone to enjoy his trampoline. Perhaps without realizing what he has done, Jeremy creates an enemy.

Fortunately, Dad knows exactly how to deal with enemies. He has special recipe for Enemy Pie. The recipe is secret *"Enemy Pie is the fastest known way to get rid of enemies."*

Listening to Dad prepare the recipe is almost thrilling... *"Enemy Pie was going to be awful. I tried to imagine how horrible it must smell, or worse yet, what it would look like."*

While the pie cools and anticipation mounts, it is time to take the next step: the enemies must spend a day together. They ride bikes, jump on a trampoline, eat lunch and play basketball together. As time passes, something rather unexpected happens: Jeremy Ross undergoes a transformation. Spending time with him is not really a bad experience! As their day together comes to an end, the two boys enjoy a macaroni and cheese dinner and then it is time to serve up Enemy Pie.

*It was at this point that I panicked. I didn't want Jeremy to eat Enemy Pie! He was my friend! I couldn't let him eat it!*



Enemy Pie is very well suited to a group setting. It invites extension activities and encourages discussion about becoming friends and how first impressions may not be accurate. The cheery illustrations enhance the story nicely.

The [Enemy Pie website](#) includes anti-bullying lesson plans and writing activities.

## MORE BULLYING PREVENTION GUIDE RELATED READINGS:

- [3 Types of Bullying in School + 1 Immense Social Challenge](#)
- [5 Reasons Why Schools Have a Difficult Time Stopping Bully Behaviors](#)
- [5 Reasons Why We Need to Define Bully Behavior and Stop Generalizing Events as "Bullying"](#)
- [6+ Steps to Addressing Bullying When It Occurs](#)
- [9 Strategies We Can Teach Students to Problem Solve](#)
- [7 Ways How to Raise a Defender of Bully Prevention](#)
- [Provocative Victims and 7+ Practices for Victory](#)
- [7 Reasons Why a PBIS is Needed to Combat Bullying](#)
- [One School Wide Philosophy: High-Trusting Relationships](#)
- [13 Ideas to Combat Bullying at the Community Level](#)
- [6 of the Most Hideous Cyber Bullying Tactics Used By Students](#)
- [11 Communication Strategies to Combat Bullying](#)
- [20 Ideas To Successfully Use Bully Data](#)
- [5 Reasons Why Strong Instruction Affects Bully Prevention](#)
- [#1 Instructional Lesson for All Students on Bully Prevention](#)
- [Power of Buddy Classrooms: 19 Ideas](#)
- [8 Ways to Teach Empathy](#)
- [10 Ways to Empower Defenders](#)
- [9 Reasons Culture Trumps Strategy](#)
- [One School Wide Strategy: Kindness Campaign](#)

More books to view... (some I added on this list were from here):

<http://www.storytimestandouts.com/anti-bullying-picture-books/>

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/kids/what-you-can-do/index.html>

<https://www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org/>

Interactive site.

Scroll to bottom to see the "crew" characters.... Lots of helpful places here!