

Books About Bullying and Teasing

For Children

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FICTION ABOUT BULLYING AND TEASING FOR CHILDREN

Carrick, Carol. *What a Wimp!*

Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1983.

After his parents get divorced, Barney and his older brother have to move with their mother to a small town. His mother used to spend her childhood summers in this town, but Barney is not so happy about moving. And now on top of everything else, he has to deal with being tormented by the class bully, Lenny, who calls him a wimp and pushes him around. Barney finally realizes that he has to fight his own battles without help from his mother or brother, and decides to confront the bully. (Ages 8-11)

Clements, Andrew. *Jake Drake, Bully Buster.*

New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2001.

Fourth-grader Jake Drake has always been bullied. In this book, he describes his experiences in preschool and grade school as a "Bully Magnet." In second grade, his life became miserable when his teacher assigned him to work on a class project with "Superbully" Link Baxter. Jake had to come up with a clever plan to deal with the problem and turn himself into Jake Drake, Bully Buster. (Ages 7-9)

Cousins, Steven. *Frankenbug.*

New York: Holiday House, 2000.

Adam Cricklestein loves bugs and even calls himself a "bug freak." He has been collecting insects ever since he was a little kid, and he loves to do experiments with them. But the school bully, Jeb McCallister, enjoys picking on Adam and torturing his insects. One Saturday afternoon, while Adam is watching the movie *Frankenstein* on television, he comes up with an idea. He decides to build a monster bug named Frankenbug to defend himself and get revenge. (Ages 8-12)

Dadey, Debbie. *King of the Kooties.*

New York: Walker & Company, 1999.

Nate is happy when he makes friends with Donald, the new kid who moved in next door. But on the first day of school, Louisa, the nastiest bully in the fourth grade, decides to torment Donald. She goes out of her way to bully him and she names him "King of the Kooties." Clueless Donald does not even know what kooties are. When Louisa keeps taunting Donald, Nate decides to teach Donald how to stand up for himself. (Ages 7-10)

Duane, Diane. *So You Want To Be a Wizard.*

New York: Delacorte Press, 1983.

Thirteen-year-old Nita is picked on and beaten up by Joanne and her gang of bullies at least once a week, but she never fights back. One day in the public library, Nita discovers a mysterious book about wizardry. The book leads Nita into another dimension and helps her find the courage to stand up to Joanne and look her in the eye without running away. (Ages 10 and up)

Duffey, Betsy. *How To Be Cool in the Third Grade.*

New York: Viking, 1993.

Third-grader Robbie York is determined to become cool. But Bo Haney, the meanest kid in third grade, teases him about his Super Heroes underwear and calls him "Baby Wobbie." Robbie has to come up with a plan to survive the third grade. He finally solves his problem when he finds something that he and the class bully have in common. (Ages 7-10)

Duncan, Lois. *Wonder Kid Meets the Evil Lunch Snatcher*.

Boston, MA: Little, Brown and Company, 1988.

When fourth-grader Brian and his family move to a small town, Brian is not looking forward to going to a new school. On the first day of school, Brian meets sixth-grade bully, Matt Gordon, who steals his lunch. Brian loves to read superhero comic books, and when he makes friends with another boy who also loves comics, they invent their own superhero named Wonder Kid, and come up with a plot to stand up to Matt and get even. (Ages 7-10)

Estes, Eleanor. *The Hundred Dresses*.

New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1944.

Wanda Petronski wears the same faded blue dress to school every single day. When she brags that she has a hundred dresses at home in her closet, one of her classmates, Peggy, starts to tease her. From then on, the girls in the class play the game of the hundred dresses and taunt Wanda. When Wanda moves away, Peggy's best friend Maddie feels guilty for always standing by silently whenever Peggy teased Wanda. Maddie learns an important lesson about picking on someone just because they're different. (Ages 7-10)

Farrell, Mame. *Marrying Malcolm Murgatroyd*.

New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1995.

Twelve-year-old Hannah is one of the popular sixth graders at school, but outside of school, she is friends with the class nerd, Malcolm Murgatroyd. Hannah and Malcolm have grown up together because their parents are best friends. Malcolm has always been teased and picked on, and Hannah is getting tired of sticking up for him at school. She is worried that if her friends find out the truth about her friendship with Malcolm, it will destroy her popularity. (Ages 9-12)

Greene, Stephanie. *Owen Foote, Frontiersman*.

New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1999.

Second-grader Owen Foote's role model is Daniel Boone. Owen and his best friend, Joseph, feel like pioneers when they wear their coonskin caps and explore the woods owned by Owen's kind neighbor, Mrs. Gold. They especially like to spend time in their treehouse fort. When Mrs. Gold's grandsons visit and decide to wreck the fort, Owen and Joseph use their knowledge of the woods to stand up to the bullies and teach them a lesson. (Ages 6-9)

Griffith, Helen V. *Cougar*.

New York: Greenwillow Books, 1999.

When Nickel moves to a farm with his Aunt Starla and her husband, Joe, he has to learn how to deal with a school bully and the mysterious ghost of Joe's black horse, Cougar, that recently died when the barn burned down. (Ages 8-12)

Hahn, Mary Downing. *Stepping on the Cracks*.

New York: Clarion Books, 1991.

It is 1944 and Margaret and Elizabeth both have brothers who are fighting in World War II. But these sixth-grade girls are fighting their own battles at home with the class bully, Gordy, who taunts and torments them. When the two girls decide to get revenge, they discover that Gordy's brother is an army deserter and that Gordy has been hiding his brother in his secret hideout in the woods. Learning Gordy's secret changes everything. (Ages 10-13)

Harris, Mark Jonathan. *Solay*.
New York: Bradbury Press, 1993.

Fifth-grader Melissa is unhappy at her new school in California. The popular girls tease her because of her perfect grades and unstylish clothes. Then Solay, an alien girl from the planet Zironia, lands in Melissa's yard. Melissa is lonely and is very glad to have a friend, so she decides to hide the spacegirl in her house. Melissa's friendship with Solay helps to give her more self-esteem. (Ages 9-12)

Hines, Anna Grossnickle. *Tell Me Your Best Thing*.
New York: Dutton Children's Books, 1991.

When bossy Charlotte, the class bully, forms a new club, shy third-grader Sophie decides to join. The club is called the Best-Worst Club, and girls who want to join have to tell the other members the best thing and the worst thing that have ever happened to them. Sophie is in for a rude awakening when her best friend, Jill, is tricked into telling Sophie's most embarrassing secret. Sophie finally finds the courage to stand up to the bully and quit the club. (Ages 7-9)

Howe, James. *The Misfits*.
New York: Atheneum, 2001.

Seventh-graders Bobby, Addie, Skeezie, and Joe have been best friends for years. They are unpopular misfits who have been called names since they were in grade school. They decide to create a third political party to run against the popular kids in the student council election. They call their party the No-Name Party and their slogan is "Sticks and stones may break our bones, but names will break our spirit." They want to show everyone at their school that name-calling can hurt, and that there is more to a person than the names he or she is called. (Ages 10-14)

Kliphuis, Christine. *Robbie and Ronnie*.
New York: North-South Books, 2002.

Robbie and Ronnie are best friends. Robbie is a little overweight and Ronnie is skinny. A bully named Dennis likes to pick on them. The two best friends stick up for each other. But one day at the pool when Dennis bullies the two boys, they learn that sometimes the best solution is to get help from an adult. (Ages 6-8)

Korman, Gordon. *Radio Fifth Grade*.
New York: Scholastic, Inc., 1989.

Fifth-grader Benjy has always wanted to be a radio announcer. So he is very excited about being a co-producer on a kids' radio show that is aired on Saturday afternoons from the local radio station. But many complex situations occur that might ruin his show, including Venice Menace, the class bully who wants to read his horrible creative writing on the show. (Ages 9-12)

Krensky, Stephen. *Louise Takes Charge*.
New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1998.

Greedy Jasper Hall is bullying everyone in his grade school class. When he starts picking on Louise, she decides that she won't let him boss her around. Louise and the other kids in the class get together and make a plan to outsmart Jasper and teach him a lesson. (Ages 7-9)

Larson, Kirby. *Cody and Quinn, Sitting in a Tree*.
New York: Dial Books for Young Readers, 1998.

Second-grader Cody is tired of being teased by the class bully about his friendship with a girl, Quinn. The class bully, Royce, calls them lovebirds, makes smooching noises whenever he walks past them at school or on the bus, and throws spitwads at Cody. One day when Royce

taunts him on the playground, Cody loses his temper and ends up hurting Quinn's feelings. Cody decides to get even with Royce and find a way to patch up his friendship with Quinn. (Ages 7-9)

Lindquist, Susan Hart. *Summer Soldiers*.

New York: Delacorte Press, 1999.

It is the summer of 1918 and Joe's father is in France, fighting in World War I. So now 11-year-old Joe has to be responsible for taking care of his family's sheep ranch while his father is gone. Joe tries hard to be courageous, but it's not easy when the three Thornton brothers constantly bully Joe and his friends. On top of that, when his best friend's father, Mr. Morgan, decides not to join the army, people in the town turn against Mr. Morgan and call him a coward. (Ages 9-12)

Masters, Susan Rowan. *The Secret Life of Hubie Hartzel*.

New York: J. B. Lippincott, 1990.

Fifth-grader Hubie Hartzel loves to daydream. He daydreams about being a rock star or a heavyweight champion. Sometimes he even daydreams that he was adopted. But he knows that daydreaming can't make his troubles disappear. Hubie is overweight and is the target of the class bully, Ralph. Hubie believes his life is terrible, but will he be able to change things? (Ages 9-12)

Mauser, Pat Rhoads. *A Bundle of Sticks*.

New York: Atheneum, 1982.

The fifth-grade class bully keeps beating up Ben, but Ben never defends himself. He does not want to hit another person, and fighting makes him sick to his stomach. Ben's father yells at him to fight back, but Ben's mother does not want Ben to fight. Finally, Ben's parents send him to a martial arts school so he can learn kajukenbo, an oriental form of self-defense. As Ben learns the techniques, he also learns not to be afraid. (Ages 8-11)

McNamee, Graham. *Nothing Wrong with a Three-Legged Dog*.

New York: Delacorte Press, 2000.

Keath and Lynda are in fourth grade. They are teased by their classmates because Keath is the only white kid in his class, and Lynda is from a biracial family. With help from Lynda and her three-legged dog, Leftovers, Keath learns how to stand up to Toothpick, the class bully, and how to feel okay about looking different. (Ages 7-11)

Mead, Alice. *Junebug and the Reverend*.

New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998.

When 10-year-old Junebug moves from his housing project to a new apartment in a different part of town, he thinks there will be no more gangs to deal with. But Junebug is surprised when he discovers that there are bullies everywhere. Junebug has no friends at his new school and he is bullied by his classmates. His mother is busy with her new job helping the elderly people who live in Junebug's apartment building, and every morning she makes him walk one of the residents, crabby old Reverend Ashford. But Junebug learns to stand up to the bullies and finds friendship where he did not expect it. (Ages 9-12)

Mills, Claudia. *Lizzie at Last*.

New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000.

Lizzie is starting seventh grade and desperately wants a new image. The old Lizzie wore long, old-fashioned dresses, loved to write poetry, and aced math. But Lizzie is tired of being seen as a nerd. She's tired of other kids teasing and giggling at her, and she wants to be accepted by the

popular crowd. So the new Lizzie wears jeans and tank tops, purposely makes mistakes in math to impress a boy, and gives up writing poetry. But what will Lizzie do when she starts missing her old self? (Ages 10-13)

Murphy, Barbara Beasley. *Miguel Lost and Found in the Palace*.

Santa Fe, NM: Museum of New Mexico Press, 2002.

Miguel Rivera and his parents are illegal immigrants in the United States. On top of trying to fit in and start a new life in America, Miguel also has to cope with bullies at school who tease him about being Mexican. In Santa Fe, Miguel visits a museum called the Palace of the Governors, where he learns about his homeland and about Mexican/United States history, and he begins to feel proud of his heritage. (Ages 9-12)

Orgel, Doris. *Nobodies and Somebodies*.

New York: Viking, 1991.

Fifth-grader Laura is the new girl in school and longs to be friends with three popular girls who have started a secret club. They call themselves the "Super Stars." Janet, another girl in the class, is excluded from the club, so she and her friends decide to form their own club. They call themselves the "NOBS," which stands for Nobodies. The Nobodies and the Super Stars become rivals at school, taunting and fighting with each other. Their teacher helps them focus on what they have in common. (Ages 8-12)

Park, Barbara. *Dear God, Help!!! Love, Earl*.

New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1993.

Earl Wilber knows that he is a little overweight, but he knows that he has a lot of cool characteristics, too. He is sick of being teased and picked on by the class bully. So Earl comes up with an arrangement where he pays the bully a dollar each week not to pick on him, but when he runs out of money, his two best friends help him plot the perfect revenge. (Ages 7-10)

Paterson, Katherine. *The Field of the Dogs*.

New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2001.

Josh has just moved to a farmhouse in Vermont with his family. It's not easy adjusting to his new life, and to make matters worse, he is also the target of a bully named Wes Rockett. One winter day, Josh discovers that his dog Manch can speak to other dogs and that Manch is being bullied by a pack of dogs. Josh tries to solve Manch's bully problem by taking his stepfather's rifle and ends up asking Wes to help him. (Ages 8-12)

Robinson, Nancy K. *Wendy and the Bullies*.

New York: Hastings House, 1980.

Third-grader Wendy has her own secret system for keeping track of the bullies in her neighborhood. In her basement closet, Wendy has a Bully Command Post with a map of her neighborhood on the wall. Wendy uses different colored pushpins to mark the spots where bullies hang out. Wendy puts the bullies into categories: Type C Bullies, Type B Bullies, and Type A Bullies, the meanest bullies of all. Wendy's Bully Command Post helps her keep the bullies away for a while, but what will she do when her best friend gets sick and she has to face a Type A Bully all by herself? (Ages 7-10)

Sachar, Louis. *The Boy Who Lost His Face*.

New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1989.

David is afraid of not fitting in and not being popular. And now his best friend is worried that being friends with David will ruin his reputation. Hoping to become more popular, David agrees to help some boys in his middle school harass an old woman and steal her cane. When strange

events start occurring in David's life, he wonders if the elderly woman is a witch who put a curse on him. David gets teased a lot and finally learns an important lesson about popularity. (Ages 10-13)

Sachar, Louis. ***Marvin Redpost: Why Pick On Me?***

New York: Random House, 1993.

One day during recess, the class bully accuses third-grader Marvin Redpost of picking his nose. His classmates tease him, his friends drop him, and he becomes an outcast. Marvin solves his problem when he conducts a survey and shows that everyone, including his parents, his teacher, and the school principal, admits that they've picked their nose. (Ages 6-9)

Sachs, Marilyn. ***Veronica Ganz.***

Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1968.

Thirteen-year-old Veronica Ganz is bigger than other kids her age, and the littler kids at school are used to being bullied by her. But she is in for a big surprise: now *she* is the one being bullied and tormented by the new kid in class, Peter Wedemeyer. Even though Veronica is much bigger and stronger than Peter, somehow he keeps outsmarting her. Finally, she finds a solution when she realizes that she has had the perfect 'weapon' from the very beginning. (Ages 9-12)

Shreve, Susan. ***Joshua T. Bates in Trouble Again.***

New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997.

Joshua T. Bates flunked third grade and had to repeat a semester. Now he has finally graduated to fourth grade in the middle of the school year. Moving on to fourth grade, however, means having to deal with the class bully, Tommy Wilhelm. Tommy is the ringleader of the class, and Joshua will do just about anything to fit in and prove to Tommy that he's not a nerd. Will Joshua find the strength and courage to stand up to Tommy? (Ages 7-11)

Shreve, Susan R. ***Joshua T. Bates Takes Charge.***

New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1993.

When a new kid, Sean, arrives at school, the class bully, Tommy Wilhelm, decides to pick on Sean and make his life miserable. Tommy and his gang of mean friends have a secret club called the NOs ("Nerds Out") and they think the new kid is a nerd. Fifth-grader Joshua just wants to fit in at school, but then the teacher assigns him to show the new kid around. When Tommy's bullying gets out of hand, Joshua decides to take charge of this situation. (Ages 7-11)

Skinner, David. ***The Wrecker.***

New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1995.

In this story of revenge, eighth-grader Theo is a social misfit who also happens to be a genius. The class bully has been tormenting both Theo and the new kid at school, Michael. So Theo convinces Michael to help him get revenge on the bully. Theo comes up with a wild plan to build a machine out of pieces of junk, which will "wreck" the bully. (Ages 12 and up)

Sonenklar, Carol. ***Mighty Boy.***

New York: Orchard Books, 1999.

Nine-year-old Howard is the new kid in his fourth grade class in New York. He is "small for his age" which makes him the perfect target for the class bully who torments and picks on him. When Howard's dream comes true and he gets a chance to meet his favorite television superhero, Mighty Boy, he discovers that he has strengths of his own that make him mighty and help him deal with the class bully. (Ages 8-11)

Spinelli, Jerry. *Stargirl*.

New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000.

At Mica High School, just about everybody tries to conform, including 16-year-old Leo Borlock. But when Stargirl Caraway arrives at school, Leo and the rest of the students cannot figure her out. Stargirl stands out and is definitely bizarre, from her odd name to the way she dresses to her weird behavior. During basketball season, she cheers even when the other team makes a basket. At first, the other students think she is way too weird, but she fascinates them and gradually she becomes the most popular girl in school. Stargirl's popularity, however, doesn't last long. After the basketball team starts losing games, the other students blame her and start to shun her. But Leo has fallen in love with her, and now he has to make a painful decision. (Ages 10 and up)

Wilson, Jacqueline. *Bad Girls*.

New York: Delacorte Press, 2001.

Life is not easy for 10-year-old "good girl" Mandy White. She is always being picked on by three "bad girls." These bullies make fun of her babyish braids and clothes, and her dorky glasses. Mandy's mother is overprotective, and her best friend drops her and starts hanging out with the bullies. But life changes for Mandy when 14-year-old Tanya, a foster child, moves in across the street. Tanya is tough, has bright orange hair, and wears cool clothes and high-heeled sandals. Tanya and Mandy become good friends, and Tanya helps Mandy find the courage to face the bullies and assert her individuality. (Ages 9-12)

Winthrop, Elizabeth. *Luke's Bully*.

New York, NY: Viking, 1990.

Arthur is the meanest kid in Luke's third grade class. Arthur always picks on Luke and demands that Luke give him his cupcakes at lunch. After school, he follows Luke home and threatens to beat him up. Luke is very shy, and when it is time to start practicing for the Thanksgiving play at school, Luke is afraid of getting a speaking part in the play. He comes up with a plan to trade parts in the play with Arthur. Luke's plan helps to put a stop to Arthur's constant bullying. (Ages 7-10)