

Recommended Children's Books

Original, extended list compiled by Trudy Ludwig available in the Second Step Bullying Prevention Unit

NOTE: Please read the book first to make sure the subject matter and reading level are age-appropriate for your students.

Preschool/Elementary Fiction

De Paola, Tomi. *Oliver Button Is a Sissy*. Oliver Button is teased by the boys in his class for pursuing his dream of being a tap dancer.

McCain, Becky. *Nobody Knew What to Do: A Story About Bullying*. This story delivers the important message that bystanders can make a difference.

Munson, Derek. *Enemy Pie*. A fun story of how a little boy, with the help of his dad, learns a delicious lesson for turning his number one enemy into a good friend.

Nickle, John. *Ant Bully*. Lucas is picked on by Sid and takes his anger out on a colony of ants. The ants retaliate and teach him a lesson about empathy.

Elementary Fiction

Clements, Andrew. *Jake Drake, Bully Buster*. In fourth grade, Jake encounters Link Baxter, SuperBully. Jake learns how to deal with the bullying even though Link never stops bullying people.

Ludwig, Trudy. *Confessions of a Former Bully*. Katie gets caught being socially cruel on the playground and, with the help of caring adults, learns more about bullying and how to be a better friend. This is a great resource on bullying and friendship issues for children and adults who work with them.

Moss, Peggy. *One of Us*. Roberta's first day at a new school is a bit confusing as she tries to find friends who can accept her for who she is. This book will generate great discussions about peer pressure and trying to fit in with others.

Elementary/Middle School Fiction

Blume, Judy. *Blubber*. A realistic story about bullying that takes place among fifth-grade girls.

Gervay, Susanne. *I Am Jack*. Jack, an 11-year-old boy, is being bullied at school. Caring bystanders and grown-ups come to his rescue.

Humphrey, Sandra McLeod. *Hot Issues, Cool Choices: Facing Bullies, Peer Pressure, Popularity, and Putdowns*. This powerful collection of short stories offers great opportunities for generating ethical and moral discussions with tweens and teens.

Paterson, Katherine. *Bridge to Terabithia*. This Newberry Award-winning novel is a tale of friendship between two fifth graders who get picked on by their peers for being different.

Singer, Nicky. *Feather Boy*. This story, woven with mystery and humor, is about the aggressor/target relationship of two boys and an adult "who bullies."

Middle School/Young Adult Fiction

Golding, William. *Lord of the Flies*. A group of English schoolboys are plane-wrecked on a deserted island. This classic explores the boundary between human reason and brutality among competitive peers.

Hinton, S.E. *The Outsiders*. Two different social groups epitomize the struggles teens face with their search for self, peer pressure, gang violence, lack of parental influence, and socioeconomic status.

Spinelli, Jerry. *Crash*. Seventh grader "Crash" Coogan is comfortable with his cocky super-jock and bullying nature until his grandfather's stroke and an unusual Quaker boy make him reconsider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.