

FURTHER RESOURCES

The *No Name-Calling Week* website is regularly updated to include information on new resources that deal with name-calling and verbal bullying in schools. Please visit us at nonamecallingweek.org for information on new books, videos, and projects.

BOOKS FOR STUDENTS

NOVELS & SHORT CHAPTER BOOKS

Blubber by Judy Blume (Yearling Books, reprint edition, 2001)

Fifth grader Jill has fun picking on Linda until the tables are turned and she becomes the victim of name-calling. The characters in this book display bad manners as well as some mild bad language (they vandalize a neighbor's house with eggs, and one calls her teacher a bitch), which has garnered the book much criticism. Still, the incidents of verbal harassment remain realistic and relevant twenty years after the book's release. We recommend using excerpts for class discussion. 153 pages. Grades 4-6.

Bluish by Virginia Hamilton (Scholastic, 2002)

Ten-year-old Dreenie, a recent transfer to a New York City magnet school, is fascinated with her fellow classmate Natalie, a girl battling leukemia. Kids call her Bluish, not a derogatory term for her black and Jewish heritage, "Blewish," but because of the effects of chemotherapy on her skin. Together, Dreenie and her other classmate, Tuli, are able to reach out to the rest of the class in accepting and celebrating Bluish as she is. 127 pages. Grades 5-8.

Buddha Boy by Kathe Koja (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2003)

At Rucher High, the new kid, Jinsen, is called "Buddha Boy" and considered a freak. He dresses in tie-dye shirts, shaves his head, and begs for lunch money in the cafeteria. So when Justin, the book's narrator, has to work with Jinsen on a class project, he hopes to get it over with fast. But the discovery of Jinsen's artistic talent leads to a friendship that changes both boys forever. 117 pages. Grades 6-10.

Crash by Jerry Spinelli (Random House, 1997)

"Crash" Coogan, celebrated school jock, has been bullying Penn Ward—small, poor, Quaker, and vegetarian—since the first grade. Crash begins to question his brutality, materialism, and winner-takes-all attitude when his beloved grandfather is disabled by a stroke. Crash takes a second look at Penn, finally accepts his friendship, and begins to grow into a mature and empathetic young man. This powerful story is told from the bully's point of view. 176 pages. Grades 5-8.

Define "Normal" by Julie Anne Peters (Little, Brown, 2000)

When she agrees to meet with Jasmine as a peer counselor at their middle school, Antonia, an over-achiever, never dreams this "punker" girl with the black lipstick and pierced eyebrow will help her with a serious family problem and become a valued friend. 196 pages. Grades 6-8.

Felita by Nicholasa Mohr (Puffin, reprint edition, 1999)

Felita faces verbal and physical harassment from the kids on her street when her Puerto Rican family moves to a new neighborhood. Her supportive relatives, especially her grandmother, encourage her to take pride in her heritage and her strength. 112 pages. Grades 3-6.

Geography Club by Brent Hartinger (HarperCollins, 2003)

Russell Middlebrook is convinced he is the only gay student at his high school until he stumbles across a small group of other gay students. United by their secret, they form a club intended to appear so boring that nobody in their right mind would ever join: the Geography Club. The treacherous terrain of high school dynamics and the pull to be popular undermine even their best intentions and test their values about friendship and bullying. References to sex and underage drinking, though handled responsibly by author, might make this book more appropriate for older students. 226 pages. Grades 7-11.

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Holly's Secret by Nancy Garden (Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 2000)

When Holly starts seventh grade in a new town, she decides to hide the fact that her parents are a lesbian couple in order to avoid the taunts and teasing of classmates. Her charade falls apart, and as she endures the barbs of some, she finds out who her real friends are. Mary, one of Holly's classmates, demonstrates excellent ally behavior. 144 pages. Grades 4-7.

The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes, illustrated by Louis Slobodkin (Voyager Books, 1988)

In this classic book, Wanda Petronski wears the same faded dress to school every day, and is teased relentlessly when she claims to have a hundred silk and velvet dresses at home. The taunting forces her to leave the school, and causes Maddie to examine her role as a silent bystander during the abuse. A short chapter book with some illustrations, this book is intended for a younger audience, but may be useful as a short-term reading project, and is an excellent springboard for class discussion. 88 pages. Grades 3-6. Also available in Spanish (Bt Bound, 1999).

The Misfits by James Howe (*Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing*, 2001)

This book, by the popular author of *Bunnicula* and *The Watcher*, tackles the issue of name-calling and standing up to bias in middle school. With much humor and a voice accessible to middle school students, *The Misfits* explores themes including popularity, love and loss, and what it means to be different. The characters, including an open and unapologetically gay boy, are not cast as victims, but as self-empowered agents of change who will stand as solid role models to young readers everywhere. 274 pages. Grades 4-8.

The Night the Bells Rang by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock (Puffin, 2000)

Mason is the victim of bully, Aden Cutler, and often takes his frustration out on his own younger brother. But an unexpected act of kindness from Aden, followed by his death in World War I, make Mason reevaluate his treatment of his sibling and his perceptions of his tormentor. 80 pages. Grades 3-6.

The Revealers by Doug Wilhelp (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2003).

At Parkland Middle School, three students—Elliot, Russell, and Catalina—have had enough of the bullying that plagues their daily lives. By starting an email forum at school, their collective statements inspire words from other kids who are equally fed up with these harmful acts. Just when the tide seems to be turning for the better, an act of revenge by a few students still bent on bullying others threatens the underground rebellion that has the whole school talking. 207 pages. Grades 5-8.

The Sixth Grade Nickname Game by Gordon Korman (Hyperion Press, 2000)

Best friends Wiley and Jeff are notorious for the clever nicknames they've given to people in their school. They've even named their own class "The Dim Bulbs" because they don't do as well in school as the other sixth grade class, dubbed "The Bright Lights." Unfortunately, this has everyone in the class believing that they are incapable of doing well on a state reading test, which puts their teacher's job at risk. In addition, as Wiley and Jeff vie for the attention of Cassandra, a new student who defies all labels, their nicknaming turns to name-calling, their friendship is threatened, and the boys finally examine what's in a name. 160 pages. Grades 4-6.

Thief of Hearts by Lawrence Yep (Harper Trophy, 1997)

Stacy has never thought of herself as anything but American until her parents ask her to befriend a Chinese immigrant, Hong Ch'un, the daughter of a family friend. When items stolen from people around the school are found in Hong Ch'un's backpack, a schoolmate calls Stacy "half-breed" for defending her. Stacy is shocked into realizing she's not like everyone else. 208 pages. Grades 5-8.

PICTURE BOOKS

Mr. Lincoln’s Way by Patricia Polacco (Philomel Books, 2001)

Eugene “Mean Gene” Esterhause, the school bully, picks on students, gives his teachers a hard time, and uses racist slurs. Mr. Lincoln, the beloved school principal, is determined to reach the boy, and asks him to help attract birds to the new school atrium. “Mean Gene” is enthusiastic, but continues making racist remarks. As the story unfolds and a bond develops between the Caucasian student and his African-American principal, it becomes apparent that “Mean Gene” learned his hatred at home. Though intended for a younger audience, the subject matter and detailed illustrations can engage older students. 40 pages. Grades 1-4.

My Secret Bully by Trudy Ludwig, illustrations by Abigail Marble (Redwood Books, 2002)

Monica is bullied, not by the class thug, but by her close friend Katie. This book explores relational bullying, a phenomenon that is often ignored. In her tightly knit group of friends, Monica is the victim of Katie’s hurtful words and gossip. But Monica’s mother gives her advice that helps her cope successfully. This picture book is useful as a read-aloud for older students. 32 pages. Grades 1-6.

Name Calling by Itah Sadu (Women’s Press, 1992)

Students deal with racist name-calling in the schoolyard of an ethnically diverse school. The brilliant illustrations in this short picture book capture a diverse student body. Useful as a peer education tool when read to younger students by older ones. 30 pages. Grades K-4.

Nobody Knew What to Do by Becky Ray McCain, illustrated by Todd Leonardo (Albert Whitman & Co., 2001)

In this short but powerful book, a boy tries to figure out what to do when he repeatedly witnesses a classmate being bullied. Intended for a younger audience, this book is useful for a peer education project if read to younger students by older ones. The realistic illustrations and straightforward delivery of the story make it a compelling read-aloud. 24 pages. Grades K-3.

Pinky and Rex and the Bully by James Howe, illustrated by Melissa Sweet (Aladdin Paperbacks, 1996)

Pinky’s favorite color is pink, and his best friend, Rex, is a girl. Kevin, the third-grade bully, says that makes Pinky a sissy. Deep down, Pinky thinks Kevin is wrong, but he’s still worried. Does Pinky have to give up his favorite things, and worse, does he have to give up his best friend? Useful as a peer education tool when read to younger students by older ones. 40 pages. Grades 1-3.

Wings by Christopher Myers (Scholastic, 2000)

The award winning author and illustrator of *Black Cat* and *Harlem* offers a retelling of a myth which highlights the beauty and perils of being different. Ikarus Jackson is very different: he has wings and he can fly. But at school, his wings attract too much attention, and kids think he is “showing off.” One girl realizes he must be lonely and resolves to step in and stop the hurtful words coming his way. Exquisite art illustrates beauty in what may first appear unusual. 40 pages. All ages.

VIDEOS FOR STUDENTS

Boys on Bullying

Five boys tell how bullying impacted their lives and how support from family, friends and the community helped. *Boys on Bullying* earned the 2001 CINE Golden Eagle Award for excellence in filmmaking. 20 minutes. Grades 4 and up. Available from AboutHealth.com at <http://www.family-health.net>.

Bullying: You Don’t Have To Take It Anymore

Using dramatic scenarios and interviews with experts in the field, this video/print resource helps students better understand what bullying is, how it affects victims and what can be done to improve the situation. Strategies are also provided for school officials, teachers, and parents. Grades 7-12. Available from Human Relations Media at <http://www.hrmvideo.com>.

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Don't Pick On Me

This program examines the dynamics behind teasing and being teased, and models effective responses to being harassed. It challenges viewers to explore the issue of peer cruelty through thought-provoking discussion questions. 21 minutes. Grades 7-12. Available from Sunburst Technology at <http://sunburst-store.com>.

Let's Get Real

This film examines a variety of issues that lead to taunting and bullying, including racial differences, perceived sexual orientation, learning disabilities, religious differences, sexual harassment, and others. The film not only gives a voice to targeted students, but also to those who do the bullying to find out why they lash out at their peers and how it makes them feel. The most heartening part of *Let's Get Real* includes stories of young people who have mustered the courage to stand up for themselves or a classmate. 35 minutes. Grades 5 and up. Available from Women's Educational Media at <http://www.womedia.org>.

Set Straight on Bullies

Set Straight on Bullies was created to help parents, educators, law enforcers, other concerned citizens, and students understand exactly what bullying is and how it can be prevented. The video explores all sides of the bullying problem—from bully to victim to the parents of both, as well as the community and educational system this problem undermines. Shown through the eyes of a young bullying victim, it brings to light the damaging effect that bullying has on all who are involved. 18 minutes. Grades K-9. Available from the National Education Service at <http://www.nesonline.com>.

Using Your Wits: Strategies to Stop Bullying

Proven effective in elementary school trials for reducing bullying, this research-based program consists of six dramatizations that demonstrate for elementary school students sure-fire ways to respond to common bullying situations. Grades 3-7. Available from Human Relations Media at <http://www.hrmvideo.com>

PROGRAMS AND CURRICULA

- The Bully Free Classroom by A. Beane. Minneapolis: Free Spirit (1999)
- The Bullying Prevention Handbook: A Guide for Principals, Teachers and Counselors by J.H. Hoover & R.O. Oliver. Bloomington: National Education Service 1996)
- Bullying at School: What We Know and What We Can Do by D. Olweus. Blackwell Publishers (1994)
- Childhood Bullying and Teasing: What School Personnel, Other Professionals, and Parents Can Do by D.M. Ross. Alexandria: American Counseling Association (1996)
- The Complete Guide to Service Learning: Proven, Practical Ways to Engage Students in Civic Responsibility, Academic Curriculum, and Social Action by C. B. Kaye. Minneapolis: Free Spirit (2004)
- Conflict Resolution in the Middle School by W. Kreidler. Cambridge: Educators for Social Responsibility (1999)
- How to Deal with Bullying at School: A Teacher Handbook by D. Olweus. Blackwell Publishers
- How to Handle Bullies, Teasers, and Other Meanies by K. Cohn-Posie. Highland City: Rainbow (1995)
- Operation Respect: Don't Laugh at Me, at <http://www.dontlaugh.org>
- Supplemental Lesson Plans for the Bullying Prevention Program from the Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life, Clemson University.
- Take It Back: A Manual for Fighting Slurs on Campus by the GSA Network, at <http://www.gsanetwork.org> (2003)

WEBSITES

- Bullying.org: <http://www.bullying.org>
- *No Name-Calling Week*: <http://www.NoNameCallingWeek.org>
- Raven Days: <http://www.ravendays.org/>
- Stop Bullying Now: <http://www.stopbullyingnow.com/>
- Take A Stand. Lend A Hand. Stop Bullying Now!: <http://stopbullyingnow.org>