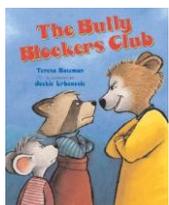


Bullying, Teasing, Name-Calling, Rejection – Kids have a rough social life! Here are some library resources that may help.

Picture books provide a good way to encourage students of varying ages to think and talk about bullying issues. Children tease one another from a very young age; they discover power by rejecting someone or by taking another's toys. By sharing a story about being different or reading a book that directly addresses a specific issue, adults can help students to think creatively about how they treat one another, become more aware about what happening around them, and ultimately become more empathetic individuals and develop a more compassionate community. Check out our other bibliography "**Coping with Bullying, Teasing, Name-Calling, & Rejection**" for parent-teacher resources, self-help and fiction titles, DVDs and websites to complement these titles.

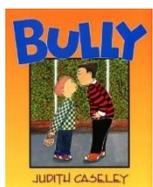
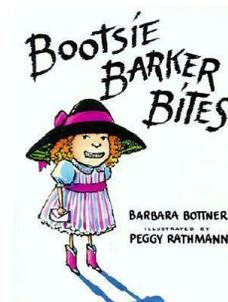
Click on the book title to find it in the Somerset County Library System catalog.

General Titles:



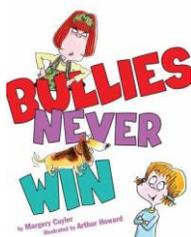
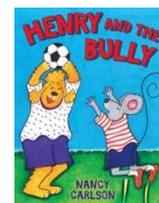
Bateman, Teresa. [The Bully Blockers Club](#). 2004 PreS-Gr 3. When Lotty Raccoon encounters Grant Grizzly, the class bully, who taunts and teases her at every turn, she finds that ignoring him does not work, nor do several other tactics she tries. Finally, she recruits other students and forms a Bully Blockers Club. Whenever the little grizzly begins intimidating someone, a club member calls out, "Hey, what are you doing?" Thus they attract the attention of adults and other students to his behavior. After a class discussion on bullying, the teacher and students come up with rules that will help everyone feel safe and welcome. This is a kid-friendly tale that teachers might use as a springboard for discussion. The last page contains a discussion on bullying for adults.

Bottner, Barbara. [Bootsie Barker Bites](#), illus. by Peggy Rathman. 1992. Ages 3-8. The narrator of this book suffers daily martyrdom at the hands of an adorable-looking but very nasty little bully. Bootsie stops short of actually biting, but she bares her teeth in a gleeful lethal grin at each visit. Finally, the narrator, certain that she and Charlene will be "rushed to the hospital with dinosaur bites," confides her fears to her mother, whose calm response plants the germ of an idea and the little girl decides to beat the bully at her own game--with humorous, successful results. A good story for all children forced to deal with Jekyll-and-Hyde playmates.



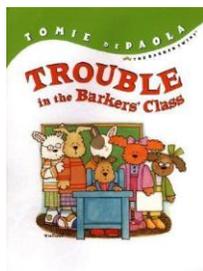
Caseley, Judy. [Bully](#). 2001. PreS-Gr 3. The bully and his victim get sympathy in this picture book. When Mickey's friend Jack turns into a bully, grabbing Mickey's cookies, tripping him in the lunchroom, and throwing Mickey's cap across the school bus, Mickey discusses it at home. Use brave words, Papa says. Try being nice to him, Mama says. It turns out that Jack is angry and hurt because he's feeling displaced by his baby sister. Mickey makes Jack laugh and they make up and become friends again. The solution is much too easy, of course, as every child will recognize, but the story does open up issues for discussion.

Carlson, Nancy. [Henry and the Bully](#). 2010 K-Gr 2. When second-grader Sam, a poodle, begins to harass first-grader Henry and his friends, the young mouse does the right thing and tells his teacher. However, Sam continues to bully Henry at recess, and he feels sick with worry. Despite underwhelming adult involvement, Henry finds a creative way to stand up to his nemesis and they even become friends. This installment of Henry's adventures shows kids how to use their own ingenuity to solve a common problem .



Cuyler, Margery. [Bullies Never Win](#). 2010 Also available as a [DVD](#) PreS-Gr 1. First-grader Jessica is a worrier, and her biggest worry is the class bully, Brenda, who makes fun of her bringing her close to tears. What should she do? Tell the teacher? Mock the bully? Finally friends encourage her to stand up to Brenda, who slinks away. The book's title is an overstatement, and the solution may be a bit simple; if only handling bullies was always so easy. But the universal scenario will open up discussion and

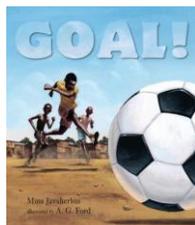
encourage kids to develop coping strategies. This book captures the sadness, loneliness, fear, and sometimes triumph that come with facing up to bullies.



dePaola, Tomie. Trouble in the Barkers' class. 2003 PreS-Gr 2- When a new girl arrives in class, she does not smile, is unreceptive to friendly gestures, and shows no respect for her classmates. Disappointed and frustrated, the children devise a plan to combat this bully. One day when Morgie finds her alone, he discovers that she has changed schools frequently, and she admits taking her hostility out on her classmates. A good book to teach conflict resolution, dealing with bullies, and making friends. When a new girl in the Barkers' class, Carole Anne, acts like a bully, the students try talking to her and ignoring her until Morgie finally discovers what is wrong and finds a way to fix it.

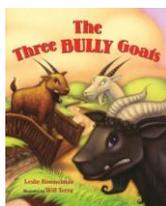
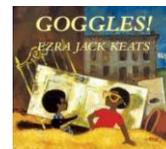
Emberley, Ed. Ed Emberley's bye-bye, big bad bullybug! 2007 PreS-Gr 2

Die-cut pages reveal the scary and mean parts of a bullybug as it prepares to attack some itty-bitty baby bugs, but a rescuer arrives on the scene (in the form of a big human foot going “skwoosh!”) before the bully can make good on its threats. Fun & cute but not really effective strategy for bullying incidents! Still it can be useful for starting a discussion on behavior expectations.



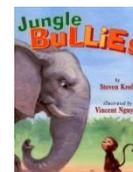
Gavaherbin, Mina. Goal! 2010 Gr 2-4. This lyrical story is set in South Africa, amidst the kind of poverty that many American kids can hardly imagine. When a gang of bullies arrives to cause trouble, the young soccer players deter the aggressors with some deft foot maneuvers and resume their game, this time with a wary lookout: “The streets are not always safe.” GOAL! will surely be a conversation-starter for both teachers and parents.

Keats, Ezra Jack. Goggles. 1998. Caldecott Honor Winner PS-Gr.3 Everyone wants the goggles Peter has found in this story of younger children finding a way to outsmart older, bullying kids. This classic tale provides plenty of discussion points about avoiding conflict and ways to use imagination to bypass being a victim. Available on DVD on “Noisy Nora and more stories about mischief.”



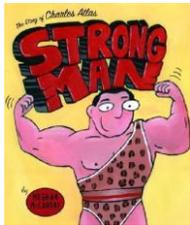
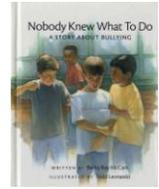
Kimmelman, Leslie. The Three Bully Goats. 2010. K-Gr 3. When Gruff, Ruff, and Tuff, bully their way across a bridge and into a meadow -- teasing a kind ogre and butting small animals along the way. The ogre, frustrated that being friendly and polite didn't work, hatches a plan to teach the "bully" goats a lesson. This twist on "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" is a great read-aloud (and discussion starter) will have kids laughing in the aisles.

Kroll, Steven Jungle Bullies; illustrated by Vincent Nguyen. 2006 PS-Gr.1. To get what they want, the larger jungle animals bully the smaller ones until Mama Monkey shows them all the benefits of sharing.



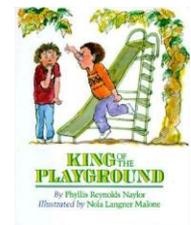
Lionni, Leo. Swimmy. 1963. PreK-Gr 2- When Swimmy, a lone black fish in a vast ocean, stumbles upon a school of small red fish living in fear of the larger fish that terrorize the seas, he uses courage and ingenuity to devise a plan to free his new friends. Available on DVD on “Swimmy and more classic Lio Lionni stories.”

McCain, Becky Ray. [Nobody Knew What to Do](#). 2001. K-Gr 3. An important book that addresses bullying from the point of view of the bystander. The protagonist serves as a spokesman for all of his classmates who don't know what to do when they see a classmate being bullied. Seeking help from a teacher "so we could all figure out what to do" provides children with an active strategy as well as permission to tell without "tattling." Includes a brief discussion about "Bully Prevention" for adults.



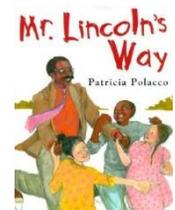
McCarthy, Meghan. [Strong Man: The Story of Charles Atlas](#) 2007. Gr 1-5. Humiliated by having sand kicked in his face by a bully, skinny Charles Atlas developed his famous fitness program and became a world-famous strong man. Included are re-creations of letters sent from young fans whose lives were changed by Atlas' program. An inspirational tale for underdogs everywhere that encourages action over acceptance of difficult circumstances.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. [King of the Playground](#), illus. by Nola Langner Malone. 1991. PreS-Gr 2. Sammy, self-proclaimed "King of the Playground," will not let Kevin play on the swings, slide, or monkey bars. Fortunately, Kevin's father, who believes that words are stronger than fists, subtly suggests ways to best the bully, and a friendship between the two boys begins. A warm, comforting story with a smart solution to childhood bullying, this gentle story reminds young students to ask a trusted adult for help when the going gets rough.

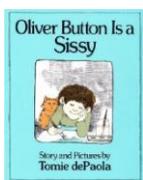


O'neill, Alexis. [The Recess Queen](#), illus. by Laura Huliska-Beith. 2002. Ages 3-7. Mean Jean is the playground queen. No stands up to her until new kid Katie Sue arrives. Katie Sue puts Mean Jean in her place in a surprisingly easy way -- simply by being too new to know any better. In a nice twist, when confronted by Mean Jean, instead of backing away, the newcomer invites her to play. While kids know that schoolyard power games aren't that easily solved, they'll enjoy seeing the bully as needy, and they will recognize how everything can suddenly shift.

Polacco, Patricia [Mr. Lincoln's Way](#). 2001. Gr. K-5 "Mean Gene" the school bully sasses his teachers, picks on other children, and makes ethnic slurs until Mr. Lincoln, the principal, discovers that Eugene knows a lot about birds and helps him overcome his intolerance. This beautifully-illustrated book this should prompt some interesting discussions about bullies and their motivations.

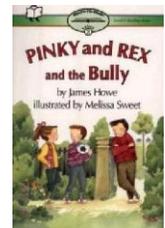


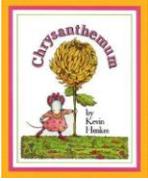
Teasing and Name-Calling:



DePaola, Tomie. [Oliver Button Is a Sissy](#) 1979. Ages 4-8 Though his classmates call him a "sissy," a small boy learns that even though he is not an athlete, he can still be a star. Oliver stays true to himself and eventually wins the respect of the name-callers and naysayers. A good starting point for conversations about gender roles and expectations with many age groups.

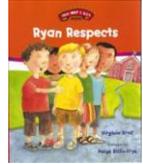
Howe, James. [Pinky and Rex and the bully](#). 1996 (Early Reader) Gr. 1-4. When a bully calls him a sissy because he likes pink and plays with girls, Pinky has second thoughts about who he is and how he fits in. A friendly neighbor listens as he struggles to find the answers, but she warns that if he changes to suit other people, he may give up too much of himself and suggests that he question the "rules of behavior" instead. With his friend Rex (a girl) at his side, Pinky verbally confronts his tormentor and the older boy's aggressive bluster crumbles in the face of Pinky's new confidence. As in the previous books in the series, Howe affirms that boys (and girls) can be whatever they want to be. Pinky learns the importance of identity as he defends his favorite color, pink, and his friendship with a girl, Rex, from the neighborhood bully.





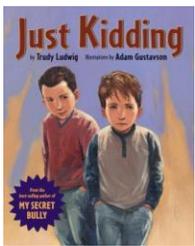
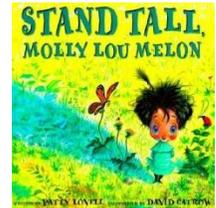
Henkes, Kevin. Chrysanthemum. 1991. PreS-Gr 3. Chrysanthemum loves her name...until the first day of Kindergarten when her classmates tease her about it. Chrysanthemum's caring parents try not to interfere, but what can't be put right by them is dealt with by lucky chance when an admired music teacher mentions that she plans to name her expected baby by the prettiest name she has heard, Chrysanthemum.

Kroll, Virginia. Ryan Respects. 2006. K-Gr. 2. Ryan thinks it is fun to call a slow runner "Doug the Slug," until his older brother teases him for having a teddy bear. Kroll's text tells a strong story of children developing important social skills and then watching them pay off.



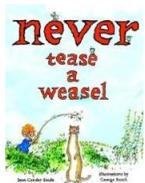
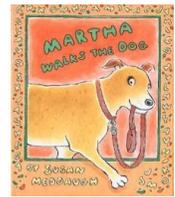
Levert, Mireille. Eddie Longpants. 2005 K-Gr 1. Eddie Longpants, who has long legs, extremely large feet, and gangly arms, is tired of being taunted by all the other children and must decide whether to get back at his tormentors or rise above it and teach them a valuable lesson. Eddie and his very tall parents demonstrate the power of charity and compassion--without a hint of sentimentality. This tall tale is about appreciating differences.

Lovell, Patty. Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon. 2001 Even when the class bully at her new school makes fun of her size, Molly remembers what her grandmother told her, exhibits her own talents and she feels good about herself. Exuberant illustrations complement this encouraging story.



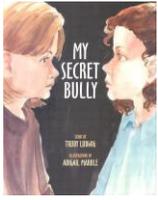
LUDWIG, Tracy. Just Kidding. illus. by Adam Gustavson. 2006. Gr 1-5. This companion to My Secret Bully addresses the topic of teasing. With help from his father, older brother, and teacher, D.J. learns how to handle a classmate who claims that his mean-spirited "teasing" is just a joke. A frank and plausible story which will help youngsters to distinguish between good-natured teasing and the destructive variety, empowering them by providing options they can use when faced with bullying. A foreword by a bullying-prevention consultant outlines four points that educators and parents need to impart to victims of this behavior. Also provided are conversation starters for further discussion, a list of pertinent organizations and Web sites, and suggested reading for both adults and children.

Meddaugh, Susan. Martha Walks the Dog. 1998. Ages 4-8. When talking dog Martha uses name-calling "You mangy mongrel/crummy cur/big baboon," to hold back a neighborhood bully dog, she is met with failure. However, she later finds that a talking parrot's praise is far more effective at controlling the bully's behavior, and his owner learns to calm him with sweet talk. Martha successfully sends the message that pets (and their owners) respond best to kindness.



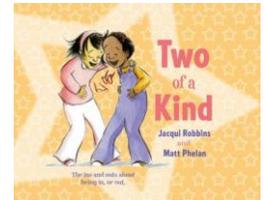
Soule, Jean Conder. Never Tease a Weasel. Fun loving animals humorously remind children not to tease in this light-hearted zany-illustrated book which never-the-less contains a serious message of kindness toward animals (and by extension people).

Cliques and Exclusion (Hidden Female Aggression):



Ludwig, Tracy. [My secret bully.](#) illustrations by Abigail Marble. 2003. Gr 2-5- Monica and Katie have been friends since kindergarten, but lately Katie increasingly seeks to exclude and embarrass her pal in front of their classmates. Monica's despair and isolation are realistically portrayed and highlight the often-overlooked aggression between females. The child eventually shares her anguish with her mother, who effectively counsels her without presenting any pat solutions or easy answers. Lists of resources for adults and children and discussion points are appended. Tracy Ludwig has also written [Trouble Talk](#) to address the issue of spreading rumors.

Robbins, Jacqui [Two of a Kind.](#) illustrated by Matt Phelan. 2009. K-Gr 2. Subtitled "The Ins and Outs of Being In or Out." When Anna is first approached by Kayla and Melanie, she is flattered to be included in their exclusive clique and sits silently as the two malicious girls taunt her friend Julisa. Eventually Anna realizes she doesn't like these "popular" but bossy and unkind classmates, and returns to her true friend. Written by a former teacher, this is a realistic look at friendship, loyalty, and the powerful lure of popularity. A good conversations starter about character, bullying, and peer pressure.

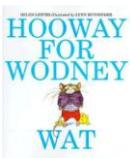
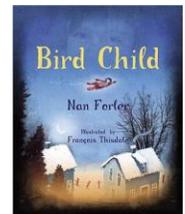


Books that Celebrate Difference and Embrace the Outsider:



Fleishman, Paul. [Weslandia.](#) illus. by Kevin Hawkes. 1999. Gr 1-4. Looking for a summer project, social outcast & non-conformist Wesley grows an unusual crop, creates a new language and self-sufficient civilization in his suburban backyard and eventually wins over those who previously thought him strange. An unforgettable fantasy ripe with possibilities for discussion which will become a favorite with every outsider child.

Forler, Nan. [Bird Child.](#) illustrated by Francois Thisdale. 2009. K-Gr 2. Eliza's mother has given her "wings to fly" and the ability to see all the possibilities that lie before her. So, when bullies pick on the new student, Lainey, gradually robbing her of her smile and ability to paint beautiful pictures, Eliza wants to help, and she does, by finding a way to show Lainey all that she can be. Then in the schoolyard, Eliza stands up to the bullies. One by one, the other children add their voices, and soon the bullies have skulked away. This is a lyrical book with a somber tone, buoyed by Eliza and Lainey's triumph in imagining possibilities.



Lester, Helen. [Hooway for Wodney Wat.](#) 1999. PreS-Gr 3. A shy rat who can't pronounce his r's rises to the occasion and outsmarts a new student who terrorizes the classroom. This comical story with superbly funny illustrations will not only make kids laugh but also give hope to those who feel they'll be outsiders forever.

Myers, Christopher. [Wings.](#) 2000.. Gr K-5. In this contemporary version of the Greek Myth Icarus, the winged kid nearly falls from the sky, not because he flies too high and dares to go too near the sun, but because jeering kids in the schoolyard and repressive adults don't like his being different and try to break his soaring spirit. Told from the perspective of a compassionate classmate who has endured teasing herself, this unique tale of a new boy at school who has a pair of wings shows how the power of one person can uplift a victim and change the perspective of others.

