FIGHT BULLYING WITH BOOKS

A Guide for Teachers, Librarians, Parents, and Caregivers
Perfect for the first couple weeks of school, *Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon* tells the story of a girl who moves to a new town and draws the attention of the mean Ronald Durkin. With her grandma’s advice ringing in her ears, Molly Lou ignores Ronald’s taunting.

- Use Molly Lou’s example to teach children that being themselves is the easiest way to make new friends.

When Peter and Willie find a cool pair of motorcycle goggles, they can’t believe their luck. But soon some scary older boys are demanding that they hand over the goggles. Can Peter and Willie outwit the bullies?

- *Goggles* teaches the importance of sharing and playing fairly.
- Discussion guide available at [www.penguin.com/teachersandlibrarians](http://www.penguin.com/teachersandlibrarians)

Bootsie Barker and her mother come over every day. When adults are around, Bootsie is the perfect child. But when the kids are alone, Bootsie is a tyrant!

- *Bootsie Barker Bites* shows children how to stand up for themselves.
- After reading *Bootsie Barker Bites*, discuss different ways to deal with difficult people.
When a bully steals Henry’s soccer ball, he has to learn how to solve his problem himself.

All of the other bulls like to snort and bash their heads together—but Ferdinand would rather smell the flowers.

Rat and Tiger are best friends, but Tiger always wants to do things his way.

Wagner’s new glasses earn him some mean nicknames—until Pearl turns things around.

Emma stands up for a boy being picked on, but now the bully is coming after her!
When a pale, long-haired boy joins Frannie’s predominantly black class, he is dubbed the Jesus Boy by the class bully.

- This Newbery Honor–winning story speaks to students who struggle with questions about race, faith, and prejudice in a light and thoughtful manner.
- Discussion guide available at www.penguin.com/teachersandlibrarians

Mellie once declared to her kindergarten class that she had a fairy living in her bedroom. But before she could bring him in for show-and-tell, he disappeared. Years later, she’s still trying to live it down. Can she “grow into her grandeur” in time to save her family and fairy friends?

- Children will discover the importance of standing up for themselves in this funny and intelligent fantasy.

Junior high really stinks for thirteen-year-old Vladimir Tod. Bullies harass him, the principal is dogging him, and the girl he likes prefers his best friend. Oh, and Vlad has a secret: His mother was human, but his father was a vampire.

- This series is hugely popular with boys and supports the idea that differences are something to celebrate.
- Author Heather Brewer is a spokesperson against bullying. Check out her website at www.heatherbrewer.com.
- Discussion guide available at www.penguin.com/teachersandlibrarians
Mickey wants to be a pool champion like his dad. But a game with his arch-rival might put an end to that dream.

A black scholarship student at a mostly white private school, Maizon feels like she doesn’t belong.

When Melanin’s mom comes out as a lesbian, Melanin must cope with the ridicule of others.

Frita is spending her summer helping Gabe get over his list of fears. But can Gabe help Frita face her fear of the Ku Klux Klan?

Helping a classmate with a mean girl problem helps ultra-logical Emma-Jean come out of her shell.

Dennis is the best scorer on his soccer team—but he also loves fashion. Will his teammates still accept him if he wears a dress?
Clay returns home from school to find a mysterious box with his name on it. Inside he discovers several cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker—his classmate and crush—who committed suicide two weeks earlier. Hannah’s experiences with bullying are both subtle and devastating.

- Explain to students that their behavior, however innocuous they believe it to be, can be hurtful to others.
- Many readers have told Jay Asher that his book changed their life by putting their problems in perspective. Discuss why Hannah committed suicide and what she could have done instead of taking her own life.
- Talk with students about what to do if they or someone they know is having suicidal thoughts.
- Discussion guide available at www.penguin.com/teachersandlibrarians

Columnist Dan Savage and his husband Terry Miller created the It Gets Better Project on YouTube after a rash of suicides by gay teens. Here, they compile a collection of essays where politicians, musicians, and ordinary citizens share their personal and inspirational stories of surviving school bullying and moving on to build successful and happy lives. Contributors include President Barack Obama, David Sedaris, Tim Gunn, Ellen Degeneres, and many more.

- While the majority of titles listed in this brochure are fiction, the essays in It Gets Better are written by real people about events that actually happened to them. Use excerpts by both famous and non-famous contributors to teach tolerance.
It's the haves versus the have-nots in this ultimate YA classic.

S.E. HINTON
THE OUTSIDERS
978-0-670-53257-5 (HC) • $17.99
978-0-14-240733-2 (PB) • $10.00
Ages 12 up • Grades 7 up

A fake Facebook page, a mean girl, and a plot for revenge make up this modern bullying story.

DANIELLE BURNS
THE JULIANGAME
978-0-399-25460-4 (HC) • $16.99
Ages 13 up • Grades 8 up

It's gymnasts versus football players in this steroid-fueled high school war.

JOSHUA COHEN
LEVERAGE
978-0-525-42306-5 (HC) • $17.99
Ages 14 up • Grades 9 up

Even getting buff over the summer hasn't helped Tyler get rid of his bully.

RICHARD PECK
THREE QUARTERS DEAD
978-0-8037-3454-8 (HC) • $16.99
Ages 13 up • Grades 8 up

Desperate to fit in, Kerry is thrilled to be accepted by the most popular, most mean girls in her school.

Laurie Halse Anderson
MISFIT
978-0-670-06101-3 (HC) • $16.99
Ages 14 up • Grades 9 up
Discussion guide available

Can Adonis stand up for what's right when the rest of his team are planning to pull a dangerous prank on a cross-dressing classmate?

PAUL VOLPONI
CROSSING LINES
978-0-670-01214-5 (HC) • $16.99
Ages 12 up • Grades 7 up
Discussion guide available

Living with Tourette's Syndrome and a ridiculing stepfather, Sam sets out to learn his real father's secrets.

JONATHAN FRISIEN
JERK CALIFORNIA
978-0-375-86327-3-454-8 (HC) • $16.99
Ages 12 up • Grades 7 up
Discussion guide available

Help your students understand the ramifications of their actions by sharing the following books.
Bullying is a huge problem in young people’s lives.

Studies show that one in four children has been bullied. Start a dialog about this important topic by having an entire class or school read the same book that features bullying as a theme.

Choose one of titles on this list and discuss the below points within the context of the book.

- Describe examples of the three types of bullying below. Which type of bullying was happening in the story?
  - Physical
  - Verbal
  - Psychological

- Why was bullying taking place? What was the bully hoping to accomplish? Was the bullying obvious or subtle? Were bystanders involved in the bullying?

- What were some consequences of the bullying? How did the victim feel after being bullied? How did the bully feel?

- What could have been done to prevent the bullying? Did the victim tell anyone? How did the bullying eventually stop? Ask the class how they would have responded in a similar situation.

- Discussion guides for many of the books listed can be found at www.penguin.com/teachersandlibrarians.

- Have all students sign copies of the below contract. Remind them often of their commitment to help stop bullying in their school and community.

I, ___________________________, promise to help stop bullying.

• I will to be kind to others.
• I will try to put myself in other people’s shoes.
• I will speak up when I see others being bullied.
• I promise to think about how my actions and words impact those around me.

Sincerely,
__________________________

“Everything affects everything.”—Jay Asher, Thirteen Reasons Why