
Bullying book list

Early Years

***Elmer* by David McKee**

This brilliant book about a multicoloured patchwork elephant who paints himself grey to try and look like the other elephants is perfect for any child who's ever worried about fitting in. Use it to teach children the value of being unique and how important it is never to hide your true colours.

***Giraffe is Left Out* by Sue Graves, illustrated by Trevor Dunton**

This book provides a perfect gentle introduction to bullying and excluding others. It's all about the value of kindness. Giraffe is feeling left out because all his friends have been invited to Leopard's party except him. Maybe it's because Giraffe was so mean to Leopard when he first joined jungle school. Giraffe wishes he'd been nicer, but maybe it's not too late...

***The Ugly Duckling* by Hans Christian Andersen**

A classic tale about an ugly duckling who is bullied by everyone around him. Eventually though, he grows into a beautiful swan – the most beautiful bird of all.

***The Pirates Next Door* by Johnny Duddle**

A truly hilarious book about acceptance and difference. When the Jolley-Rogers move to Dull-On-Sea, Matilda is the only one who wants to get to know the shocking new pirate neighbours. Only she can look beyond their appearance. Meanwhile, everyone else is busy whispering and disapproving of their messy garden and scruffy clothes.

***Dandy Lion* by Lizzie Finlay**

Dandy Lion is all about friendship and diversity. Everyone wants to be this chaotic, messy and energetic character's friend when he first joins the class, but soon enough he gets his friends into trouble and they desert him. Will they see the error of their ways? This is a fantastic book that celebrates unique and extraordinary individuals.

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Primary

***Tyrannosaurus Drip* by Julia Donaldson and David Roberts (KS1)**

In this hilarious rhyming tale a placid duckbill ends up in the wrong nest. He finds himself surrounded by tyrannosaurus and is called 'Tyrannosaurus Drip' by his horrid sisters. Yet still he finds the courage to be himself.

***Willy the Wimp* by Anthony Browne (KS1)**

Willy the chimp is as gentle as can be. He even apologises if someone hits him, so it's no surprise that he ends up being bullied by the tough suburban gorillas, who call him 'Willy the Wimp'. But one day, Willy answers a body-building advert, and determines to be a wimp no more...

***Something Else* by Kathryn Cave and Chris Riddell (KS1)**

This is a perfect book for reassuring children that it's good to be different. Something Else is a bit of a loner – he's excluded from everything because he's different. One day Something turns up, an even stranger creature than Something Else. How will Something Else react?

***Looking after Louis* by Lesley Ely, illustrated by Polly Dunbar (KS1)**

Louis is new at school and there's something different about him. It isn't specifically mentioned, but it's implied that Louis has an autistic spectrum disorder. At first, his classmates find him annoying and get angry when he unknowingly spoils their games. The situation is of course complex, but there is a sense of goodwill and acceptance throughout the book.

***Marshall Armstrong is New to Our School* by David Mackintosh (KS1)**

This book focuses on tolerance, acceptance and celebrating difference. Marshall Armstrong is nothing like his classmates. But difference isn't necessarily a bad thing, as his new friends soon find out when they go to his party...

Bullying book list

Primary (cont...)

***The Boy in the Dress* by David Walliams (KS2)**

David Walliams' first book focuses on 12-year-old Dennis, who likes to dress as a girl. The hilarious bestseller has a lot to say about courage and handles its sensitive subject matter with a light touch. Its quirky characters are an ideal way to introduce the topic to your class.

***The War Next Door* by Phil Earle (KS2)**

How do you beat someone who bullies? Courage is good. Brains are great. How about circus skills? Jemima has just moved in next door to Masher, a horrible man who loves beating people up. Nobody on Storey Street has ever dared stand up to Masher. But Jemima isn't scared of Masher. She puts the strength she has gained from her circus act to take him on. A brilliant story about courage and standing up to people who bully.

***Buried Alive* by Jacqueline Wilson (KS2)**

Tim and his friend Biscuits were having a great time on their beach holiday. Only now two awful boys, Prickle-Head and Pinch-Face, are ruining their stay. With a little help, they learn to stand up to them, but what will happen when the friends fall out and the Prickle-Head and Pinch-Face get the upper hand?

***A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness (KS2)**

This fantasy novel tells the story of 13-year-old Conor, a victim of bullying at school, who is struggling to cope with his mother's ongoing chemotherapy. He is plagued by nightmares and every night he is taunted by a huge tree-like monster at his window.

***Feather Boy* by Nicky Singer (KS2)**

This moving novel flits between moments of humour and tension. It narrates the story of Robert, who suffers at the hands of Nicker, who bullies him. At the same time, Robert is also trying to deal with the break-up of his parents' marriage. This is a fantastic story of courage and resilience.

Bullying book list

Secondary

***Deenie* by Judy Blume (KS3)**

Deenie is one of the prettiest girls in school. She even gets called up by modelling agencies. But suddenly, she finds out that she has a curved spine and that she'll have to wear a huge metal back brace from her neck to her hips for the next four years. This book tells the story of her struggle to find the silver lining in her situation.

***Blubber* by Judy Blume (KS3)**

This book is told from the perspective of someone who bullies. Jill knows that she shouldn't join in with the others as they bully Linda, but she's too scared not to. Eventually, Jill speaks up about the bullying, but her actions are not without consequences...

***Noughts and Crosses* by Malorie Blackman (KS3)**

This is a brilliant book for encouraging children to think about difference, and what it would be like to live in a world where difference was not tolerated. Sephy and Callum have been friends since childhood. But now that they are growing up, they can no longer mix. White-skinned Callum is a Nought – a second class citizen in a society controlled by the black Crosses.

***Hollow Pike* by James Dawson (KS3)**

This book is a proper page-turner. Lis London moves to the country in an attempt to escape the people who bully her and her recurring nightmares, but she soon finds herself mixed up in events which may be linked to a brutal murder. This is an extremely tense novel that paints a realistic picture of the relentless malice of school bullying.

***Run, Jimmy, Run* by Malachy Doyle (KS3 – reluctant readers)**

Jimmy is bullied by Dax. One day he can't stand it any more, and he decides to run away. Only to find that Dax has followed him. The chase begins... Aimed at struggling readers aged 11 or older, this book uses simple sentence structures and vocabulary to relay an atmospheric tale of menace and tension. It presents an interesting exploration of the relationship between a person who bullies and their victim.

Bullying book list

Secondary (cont...)

***Lord of the Flies* by William Golding (KS4)**

William Golding's modern classic tells the story of a class of school boys stranded on an island. As the novel progresses we experience the slow progression of the boys towards savagery. Former choir-boy Jack begins to bully the other boys, using his superior strength to persecute Piggy and Simon. Eventually the boys become tribal and Ralph and Piggy begin to feel isolated as they are left out of Jack's tribe.

***Cat's Eye* by Margaret Atwood (KS4)**

When painter Elaine Risley returns to her hometown of Toronto, she is overwhelmed by memories of her past. In particular, her relationship with a girl named Cordelia. The novel depicts this complicated friendship, vividly describing the acts of cruelty and psychological torture that have haunted Elaine for years.

***To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee (KS4)**

The themes of courage, bullying and difference are deeply explored in this book. Not least in Atticus's line, "I wanted you to see what real courage is, instead of getting the idea that courage is a man with a gun in his hand." The book focuses on a lawyer's struggle for justice as he defends a black man accused of raping a white girl in a town saturated in racism and violence. There are plenty of lessons to be learned from this moral tale and plenty of useful quotes, including Atticus's pronouncement, "There's just one kind of folks. Folks."

***I'm the King of the Castle* by Susan Hill (KS4)**

10-year-old Charles Kingshaw and his mother have moved to live with Edmund Hooper and his father in an isolated country mansion. The problem is, Hooper doesn't want Kingshaw there and he is determined to make his life hell in all sorts of ingenious ways.