

Reading List by Grade Level

Pre-K

Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon, Patty Lovell (Victim)

Being a victim, and the importance of helping victims to maintain a strong support network (and not just from home) to help the person maintain a strong self esteem.

The Big Bad Bully Bear, Ginnie Hofmann (Victim)

Emphasis on bully being educated about behaviors. Most likely connected to marginalized bully or bully-victims. It is about the culture not accepting the behavior of a bully.

The Bully Blockers Club, Teresa Beteman (Dealing with bullying)

Importance of social networks to combating bullying. As well as the role of staff and teachers in addressing bullying, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Elementary

*Crow Boy, Taro Yashimi (Victim experience)

Focus on how difference can be seen in a positive way, and that being supported by adults and having friends can help to reduce bullying.

* Mr. Lincoln's Way, Patricia Polacco (Bully experience)

Racially focused bullying, and how positive relationships with adults (people in power) can help reduce bullying behavior.

Nobody Knew What to do, Becky McCain (Bystander experience)

Discusses intervention strategies for bystanders, with emphasis on teacher assistance being paramount, but also about group support in not accepting bullying behavior at a school.

Stop Picking on Me, Pat Thomas (non-fiction)

Educates kids about what bullying is, how it affects us, and to some degree why it occurs.

Advanced Elementary

Say Something, Peggy Moss (Bystander turned victim) (2-4)

Bystander avoidance of issues, and then the experience of being a victim. It also offers potential discussion about how friendships are important in reducing bullying (and the impact of bullying).

Milton's Dilemma, Patricia Gatto & John DeAngelis (Bystander) (2-5)

Focus on struggle of being a victim, considerations of revenge and the consequences that can follow.

My Secret Bully, Trudy Ludwig (Relational Aggression) (2-5)

Emphasis in discussion is on relational aggression that comes from someone who is suppose to be friends with the victim.

Bully on the Bus, Carl Bosch (choose own adventure) (2-5)

Discussions can focus on how to deal with bullying, and outcomes of different responses.

Joshua T. Bates Takes Charge, Susan Shreve (Bystander, former victim) (3-6)

The difficulty with stopping bullying, including informing teachers, as it deals with a kid who witnesses bullying, which is similar to what he had experienced.

Holly's Secret, Nancy Garden (Gay/Lesbian parents)

A girl is bullied because of her parent's sexual orientation. Displays fear and response by many victims to hide their difference. Also displays discussion about importance of social networks in dealing with bullying.

Blubber, Judy Blume (Reluctant Bully)

Verbal and relational aggression toward one girl, until another, a member of the bullying group, becomes the object of the bullying. How relational aggression can change focus.

*The Hundred Dresses, Eleanor Estes (Bystander) (used in 7th/8th)

Multiple discussions, but the silent bystander and the difficulty with trying to help a victim, and best ways to do so.

Middle School

Crash, Jerry Spinelli (Bully perspective)

Looks at experiences through bully's eyes, and the importance of developing empathy for those around them.

Geography Club, Brent Hartinger (LGBT experience)

Homophobic bullying and the importance of social networks in dealing with it. As well, the struggle with fitting in as opposed to being supportive.

The Revealers, Doug Wilhelm (Changing the culture)

Using email to challenge and change the culture, and the threats that exist when someone does challenge the culture. What is the role of everyone in changing this culture, even when most do not like it.

Misfits, James Howe (Victims)

The development of social networks to combat bullying. Emphasis on changing the culture of a school (can talk about other ways to change the culture. The responsibility of kids in doing this).

Stick up for Yourself, Gershen Kaufman, Lev Raphael, & Pamela Espeland (non-fiction)

Developing stronger self esteem, and the skills to address bullying situations to maintain one's safety and ultimately their self esteem.

High School

Harry Potter (first three books are more relevant) (multiple issues)

Bullying is a central theme throughout. An excellent discussion can focus on when does power exist in a relationship to show that it is bullying. Is Harry bullied if he has similar, or greater levels of power than the child confronting him, even if he does not use his power to stop or respond to the other child? What about when teachers defend or do not respond to the bullies? This supports the bullying.

The Chocolate War, Robert Cormier (Victim)

Emphasis is on challenging the culture of the school, going against the norms and people trying to bully (even adults) into falling in line with the status quo.

Ender's Game, Orson Scott Card (Victim)

Discussions should focus on teacher responses to bullying and how bullying is often allowed to continue until kids retaliate (the emphasis should not be on Ender killing his bullies). But about what he learns from the bullies in dealing with situations.

Cat's Eye, Margaret Atwood (Victim remembers as adult)

Realizing the impact of bullying, and relational aggression in this book, can have on our lives, and the control enacted on people through relational aggression.

Shooter, Walter Dean Myers (Victim violent response)

Larger social issues of bullying and retaliation, and the ultimate importance in changing all aspects of a school (Whole School Approach) to changing the culture of violence in a school.

Alt Ed, Catherine Atkins (Victim)

Consequences to retaliation and the struggles that many kids experience that are related to one another. The importance of social networks in dealing with the impact of bullying.

Walking Naked, Alyssa Brugman (Bully)

The intent of a bully, in particular a relational aggression bully, who struggles with maintaining her power, both in her group and her interests outside the group. Finally, the impact of bullying on the eventual suicide by the victim.

*Recommended Reading List by California Department of Education