

Middle School Bullying Prevention & Intervention Resources

Book List

Fiction

A Corner of the Universe by Ann Martin

Hattie meets her mentally ill Uncle Adam and feels enchanted and concerned about Adam's childlike exuberance. She becomes protective of him.

Adam Canfield, Watch Your Back! By Michael Winerip

Adam, a middle schooler, is mugged by high schoolers. He then becomes the focus of media attention just as the school newspaper launches a contest to out the bullies at their school.

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

A Newberry classic of a tale of friendship between two fifth graders who get picked on by their peers for being different.

Buddha Boy by Kathe Koja

A religious boy named Jinsen attends a new school. He is made fun of because of his dragon t-shirts and peaceful ways.

Confessions of a Former Bully by Trudy Ludwig

The effects of bullying from a bully's point of view.

Crickwing by J. Cannon

Students see what bullying would be like from the bully's point of view.

Define Normal by Julie Ann Peters

Antonia, a straight-A student and teacher-pleaser is assigned to Jasmine, a non-conformist, for peer counseling.

Don't Call Me Ishmael by Michael Gerard Bauer

This book appeals to young teenage boys, dealing with issues that relate to them.

Dorie Witt's Guide to Surviving Bullies by B. Berman

Dorie transitions from grade school to middle school, and then to high school. Gives great advice for anyone dealing with bullying problems.

Driftwood by Cathy Cassidy

Everyone wants to help Paul, Joey's foster brother, but no one knows that Joey also needs help.

Emma-Jean Lazarus Fell Out of a Tree by Lauren Tarshis

Emma-Jean is not like other girls, and does not seem to have many friends. However, she is comfortable being herself, which Colleen is not. Emma-Jean finds Colleen crying in the bathroom, she decides to help Colleen however she can.

Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

A sci-fi adventure with ethical and social questions.

Escaping the Giant Wave by Peg Kehret

Kyle tries to save his sister, his bully, and himself from the aftermath of an earthquake.

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick

Explores the friendship between Max, who lives with his grandparents, and the large 8th grader who is slow but has plenty of common sense.

Gifted by Beth Evangelista

George is arrogant and mentally gifted, and has been dreading the 8th grade camping trip and its inevitable bullying. A hurricane and a friend's loyalty helps him realize what is important in life.

Good Bye Bully Machine by A. L. Beane and D. Fox

This book shows how bullying starts and grows. Also gives advice on how to make bullying stop.

Hot Issues, Cool Choices: Facing Bullies, Peer Pressure, Popularity, and Putdowns by Sandra McLeod Humphrey

This collection of short stories offers great opportunities for generating ethical and moral discussions with tweens and teens.

If a Tree Falls at Lunchtime by Gennifer Choldenko

Kirsten comes back from summer break to find that everything has changed.

Inventing Elliot by Graham Gardner

Elliot is a victim of bullying, so he decides to invent a cooler self when he changes schools. However, he then attracts the wrong kind of attention from the Guardians who "maintain order" at his new school.

Just Kidding by Annie Bryant

Classmates learn first-hand that gossip can spread quickly, and how much damage it can cause.

Just Kidding by Trudy Ludwig

D.J. is teased by Vince, and starts to feel like a loser.

Loudmouth George and the Sixth Grade Bully by Nancy Carlson

George's lunch has been repeatedly stolen by a large bully. With Harriet's help, he is able to deal with the bully.

Mr. Lincoln's Way by Patricia Polacco

Mr. Lincoln discovers that Eugene, the school bully, loves birds. He uses this interest to help Eugene.

My Secret Bully by Trudy Ludwig

Katie makes snide comments about Monica to other girls, excludes her from games, and tells Monica who she is and is not allowed to talk to.

Poison Ivy by Amy Goldman Koss

In a school government class, a group of girls go on "trial" for bullying a student. Told from the point of view of each person involved.

Rules by Cynthia Lord

A new girl moves next door to Catherine. She would like to befriend her, but is nervous about her reaction to Catherine's autistic brother and friend in a wheelchair. Catherine must decide the type of friend she is looking for.

Sorry by Trudy Ludwig

Jack feels cool for being friends with Charlie, a bully. He resents him but feels unable to challenge Charlie. Jack decides to help a victim of Charlie's bullying.

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

Leo tell the reader about life at his high school, which changes when a new student refuses to conform, which yields reactions of disdain and awe.

Tangerine by Edward Bloor

Paul transfers from an affluent school to a rough public school. He makes friends but faces racism from his old school friends and begins to understand more about white privilege.

The Boy Who Lost His Face by Louis Sacher

David is cursed by an elderly woman he helps attack and learns to regret his weakness to conform to peer pressure. New friends help him become a stronger person.

The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier

Jerry, a freshman at a Catholic High School for boys, refuses to sell chocolate for a school fundraiser, which causes an uproar.

The English Rose by Madonna

Four little girls are all jealous of Binah. They pretend not to see her when she walks by. They each have the same dream one night and are set straight by a fairy godmother.

The Girls by Amy Goldman Koss

A group of girls get advice from peers, parents, and school nurses about the manipulative relationships among them.

The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes

A Newberry classic about a group who picks on someone who is a little different, told from the perspective of the bully's best friend.

The Misfits by James Howe

The Misfits are a group of four friends, each who has a trait that society judges- being too tall, too fat, too gay, or too greasy. The kids band together for survival, security, and to experience acceptance.

The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton

Ponyboy knows he can count on his two brothers and two friends who would do anything for him. One night, a group of rich kids take things too far, and Ponyboy's world is turned upside down.

The Revealers by Doug Wilhelm

Three seventh graders team up and use their school Internet to reveal the amount of bullying taking place in their middle school.

The Skin I'm In by Sharon Flake

Maleeka is a 7th grader who overcomes low self-esteem and the bullying behaviors of her peers with the guidance of her teacher.

The Sweetheart of Prosper Country by Jill Alexander

A young girl who is trying to discover herself with the loss and absence of a parent, struggles with body image, feelings for a boy, the realization that friends have separate lives, finding a group to identify with, coming to terms with winning and losing, and how to handle bullies.

The Traitor Game by B. R. Collins

Michael and Francis are 15 and feel betrayed when a classmate learns about their secret world. Michael hatches a plan for revenge, and when a bully becomes involved, the boys and their secret world face grave danger.

The Truth About Truman School by Dori Hillestad-Butler

Students handle cyber-bullying and name-calling.

There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom by Louis Sachar

Bradley, a fifth grader is a social outcast and a bully. With the help of a school counselor, he learns to change his behavior, accept himself, and accept others.

This Air by David Getz

Jacob is a 6th grader trying to be a normal kid. However, his asthma keeps him from this. Jacob goes to a new school and makes a new friend, but discriminates against kids who are a little different.

Trouble Talk by Trudy Ludwig

Deals with rumors, difficult friendships and relationships, forgiveness, lies, and trust.

Queen of the Toilet Bowl by Frieda Wishinsky

A Brazilian immigrant at a U.S. high school is emotionally bullied by a popular girl.

Waiting for Normal by Leslie Connor

Addie's mother and stepfather just divorced, and Addie ends up living with Mom in a trailer. As Addie's world becomes more and more unstable, her strength of character becomes her best friend.

When Zachery Beaver Came to Town by Kimberly Willis Holt

A book about friendship, loss, life, love, and everything that connects them.

Wringer by Jerry Spinelli

In a small town, a community is known for their yearly event, Pigeon Day. On this day, sharp-shooters fire at pigeons as they are released from cages. The birds who fall to the ground still alive have their necks wrung by boys known as "wringers." Tradition calls for boys to become wringers at age ten. Palmer does not want to become a wringer but faces peer pressure to do so.

Non-Fiction

Confessions of a Former Bully by Trudy Ludwig

Written from the bully's point of view so the reader understands the effects of bullying.

The Story of Ruby Bridges by Robert Coles

A young girl faces abuse and racism when she becomes the first black student to integrate into a white school.