Preschool and Elementary School Fiction www.opheliaproject.org


- Burnett, Karen Gedig. Simon's Hook: A Story About Teases and Put-Downs. Felton, CA: GR Publishing, 1999. For grades 1 through 4; Simon experiences a "bad hair day" after his sister cuts out portions of his hair to remove some chewing gum. When his friends tease him, the boy rushes home in tears.

- Casely, Judith. Bully. New York: Greeenwillow Books, 2001. For preschool through grade 3; Jack has begun to harass his friend Mickey - stealing part of his lunch, breaking his pencil, and tripping him. Mickey's parents and sister suggest ways to understand or rectify the situation.

- Clements, Andrew. Jake Drake, Bully Buster. New York: Aladdin, 2001. For grades 2 through 4; A fourth grader looks back over his years in school and his early experiences as a "bully magnet."


- DePino, Catherine. Blue Cheese Breath & Stinky Feet: How To Deal With Bullies. Washington, D.C.: Magination Press, 2004. Steve is picked on by a bully and is afraid things will get worse if he tells asks for help; his parents come up with a plan.

- Hoose, Phillip and Hannah Hoose. Hey Little Ant. Berkeley, CA: Tricycle Press, 1998. For preschool through grade 2; based on a song, this story has a message: respect all creatures and their right to live.

- Howe, James. Pinky and Rex and the Bully. New York: Aladdin, 1996. For grades 1 through 3; Pinky is forced into an identity crisis when his nickname and favorite color is deemed girlish by a bully.


Ludwig, Trudy. *My Secret Bully.* Berkeley, CA: Tricycle Press, 2005. For grades 2 through 5; follows the story of two girls who have been friends since kindergarten, but lately one seems to be excluding and embarrassing the other in front of friends.


Madonna. *The English Roses.* New York: Calloway, 2003. "Nicole, Amy, Charlotte, and Grace are all horribly jealous of Binah, the perfect, beautiful, smart, kind girl who lives nearby. Even though they know Binah is lonely, she makes them sick."


Moss, Peggy. *Say Something.* Gardiner, ME: Tilbury House Publishers, 2004. For kindergarten through grade 5; a young narrator describes different examples of bullying that she witnesses at school and on the bus, but remains silent.

Munson, Derek. *Enemy Pie.* San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2000. For kindergarten through grade 3; hoping that the Enemy Pie his father makes will help him get rid of his enemy, a little boy finds that instead it helps make a new friend.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. *King of the Playground.* New York: Aladdin, 1994. For preschool through grade 2; with his dad's help, Kevin overcomes his fear of the "King of the Playground."


Polacco, Patricia. *Mr. Lincoln's Way.* New York: Philomel Books, 2001. Everyone thinks Eugene, the school bully, is trouble; but Mr. Lincoln, "the coolest principal in the whole world" is determined to reach the boy.


*Elementary and Middle School Fiction*


Levine, Gail Carson. *The Wish*. New York: HarperTrophy, 2000. When granted her wish to be the most popular girl in school, Wilma, an eighth grader, forgets that she will graduate in three weeks and her popularity will vanish.

McCord, Pat Mauser. *A Bundle of Sticks*. Wethersfield, CT: Turtle Press, 2004. At the mercy of the class bully, fifth-grader Ben is sent to a Kajukenbo (martial arts) school, where he learns techniques to defend himself and embraces their peaceful philosophy.


Shreve, Susan Richards. *Joshua T. Bates Takes Charge*. New York: Knopf, 1993. Joshua was once teased by the class bullies, but fears that the new kid in town will become the new target. For grades 4-7.


Wilhelm, Doug. **The Revealers.** New York: Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 2003. Three seventh graders team up and use their school Internet to reveal the amount of bullying taking place in their middle school.

Zeier, Joan T. **Stick Boy.** New York: Atheneum, 2003. When a growth spurt in the sixth grade makes skinny self-conscious Eric a school misfit and victim of the class bully, he is led to befriend Cynthia, a proud and spirited African-American girl who is disabled.

**Middle School and Young Adult Fiction**

Bloor, Edward. **Tangerine.** New York: Scholastic Paperbacks, 2001. This novel highlights the role of adults, families, and schools in bullying situations; the story is set in rural Florida, with an eleven-year-old blind protagonist.

Crutcher, Chris. **Staying Fat For Sarah Byrnes.** New York: HarperTempest, 2003. A novel about high school students Eric and Sarah who have been friends for years and how these two social outcasts helped one another to stand up against social cruelty among their peers and bullying adults.

Crutcher, Chris. **Whale Talk.** New York: Greenwillow Books, 2001. T.J., an adopted multiracial teenager, shuns organized sports at his high school until he agrees to form a swimming team and recruits some of the school’s less popular students.

Friel, Maeve. **Charlie’s Story.** Atlanta, GA: Peachtree Publishers, 2004. A fourteen-year-old girl named Charlie struggles to come to terms with the reasons for her mother’s desertion, her father’s silence, and the cruelty of her classmates.

Hinton, S.E. **The Outsiders.** New York: Puffin (Reprint), 1967. The book’s two different social groups epitomize the struggles teens face with their search for self, peer pressure, gang violence, lack of parental influence and socioeconomic status.


Spinelli, Jerry. **Crash.** New York: Dell Yearling, 1996. Seventh grader ‘Crash’ Coogan is comfortable with his cocky super-jock and bully nature until his grandfather’s stroke and an unusual Quaker boy make him reconsider the meaning of friendship and the importance of family.

Spinelli, Jerry. **Loser.** New York: HarperTrophy, 2003. Even though his classmates consider him strange and a loser, Daniel Zinkoff’s optimism and exuberance and the support of his loving family do not allow him to feel that way about himself.


Spinelli, Jerry. **Stargirl.** New York: Knopf Books for Young Readers, 2002. In this story about the perils of popularity, the courage of nonconformity and the thrill of first love, an eccentric student named Stargirl changes Mica High School forever.