

Literacy Tips



Tips for middle school educators on various topics such as grammar, writing, reading, spelling, vocabulary, cooperative learning and more.

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Tip #79: Conflicts in Literature (Opportunities for Problem Solving)

Did you know that suspensions are down at middle level compared to this time last year? Does this have anything to do with the conflict resolution programs at many of the schools or the new Aggressors, Victims, and Bystanders program being introduced to all 7th graders this year? There are probably many factors involved with these suspension statistics, but the good news is suspensions are down. However, bullying will never go completely away so we have to do our best to address this issue in many ways across the curriculum.

New Literature

Last year I sent out Literacy Tip # 51 that listed some excellent literature sources around the theme of bullying. One year later, huge leaps have been made in this area. One of the newest books available is a professional resource called *The Bully in the Book and in the Classroom* by C. J. Botts. (For those of you who follow young adult lit, you will be interested to know that C. J. is married to Don Gallo. Don has edited numerous volumes of YA short stories.) This book has been added to the Literacy Lending Library, so please let me know if you are interested in checking it out. There are chapters devoted to recommended literature in elementary, middle school, and high school. Here is a link about this book.

www.scarecrowpress.com/Catalog/Singlebook.shtml?command=search&db=^DB\Catalog.db&eqSKUdatarq=0810850486

ASD Librarians' Recommendations

Our librarians are experts in children's literature. They were invited to give their recommendations for literature that deals with the theme of bullying; [look what they sent our way!](#)

Quiz on Bullying

Perhaps a good place to begin is with [a pretest on what your students know about bullying](#). This one comes from a book by Ken Rigby, *Stop Bullying: A Handbook for Schools*, 2001.

Books-at-a-Glance

[Attached is an annotated bibliography](#) of sixteen titles that middle level teachers will certainly recognize. Many of these will be in your bookrooms. Can you reread *Freak the Mighty* through the lens of bullying? How about *Stargirl* or *Holes*?

Bully Awareness Chart

Once you choose your literature, consider having students analyze characters based on the type and degree of bullying. Attached is a [blank Bully Awareness Chart as well as a completed example](#) on the YA novel *Catalyst*



by Laurie Halse Anderson, which is a book better used at high school. This kind of chart helps students set a purpose for reading.

No-Name Calling Week

The Misfits by James Howe is a young adult book that addresses bullying at middle school. (James Howe is the author of *Bunnicula*, which is very popular in elementary schools.) As with any book recommendation, please take the time to read it in advance to make sure it is a good fit for you, your students, and your families.

www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0689839561/qid=1109114973/sr=2-1/ref=pd_bbs_b_2_1/102-4827911-4853700

The Misfits is cross-referenced on a lot of lists about bullies. In this book, a group of four 7th grade bullied students who are friends decide to run their own nominee for student government. Their platform is based on the horrible names students across the school get called. They plaster the walls with these names placing them in circles with the universal red slash mark through each one. This could segue nicely into the following schoolwide effort:

www.nonamecallingweek.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/home.html

Meet Jan Davis

We are fortunate to have a fulltime support teacher to help teachers implement the twelve lessons from *Aggressors, Victims, and Bystanders* (AVB). Jan Davis was on staff at Wendler teaching science part time as well as AVB. At the semester, Jan went fulltime with AVB and is housed at the Safe and Drug Free Schools office behind the Admin. Building. I asked Jan to write a summary of services that are available to you.

What's new with AVB?

Jan Davis is now the middle school support teacher for the program.

What does this mean?

Jan is available to give support with any aspect of the implementation of AVB in the middle schools – including demonstration AVB lessons and demonstration and providing supplemental lessons to the AVB program.

How does one contact Jan?

742-4160 or davis_janet@asdk12.org

Simon's Hook by Karen Gedig Burnett

[Here is an example of what Jan will be able to provide us in the future.](#) Jan shared with me one of her favorite picture books that relates to the theme of bullying and prepared this teacher-friendly lesson plan. Although an "everybody book," this story offers many layers for discussion.

Simon's Hook by Karen Gedig Burnett
www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0966853016/qid=1108692976/sr=2-1/ref=pd_bbs_b_2_1/002-2361734-9852063



Conflicts in Literature - Opportunities for Problem Solving

Cody and Quinn, Sitting in a Tree	Larson, Kirby	2-3 Fiction
Jake Drake Bully Buster	Clements, Andrew	2-4 Fiction
Attack of the Tagger	Van Draanen, Wendelin	3-5 Fiction
Bully of Barkham Street	Keats, Ezra Jack. Goggle	3-6 Fiction
Double Dutch	Draper, Sharon	3-6 Fiction
Secret Identity	Van Draanen, Wendelin	3-6 Fiction
Starting School with an Enemy	Carbone, Elisa	3-6 Fiction
Stepping on the Cracks	Hahn, Mary Downing	3-6 Fiction
Stitches	Huser, Glen	3-6 Fiction
The Goats	Cole, Brock	3-6 Fiction
The Revealers	Wilhelm, Doug	3-6 Fiction
Trouble on the Ohio river	Lutz, Norma Jean	3-6 Fiction
Hang in there Shelley	Saksena, Kate	5-8 Fiction
Buddha Boy	Koja, Kathe	7-10 Fiction
Drowning Anna	Maefield, Sue	8+ Fiction
Fat Kids Rule the Workd	Going, K. L.	8+ Fiction
Slot Machine	Lynch, Chris	8+ Fiction
The Bully	Langan, Paul	Bluford Series
Alt Ed	Atkins, Catherine	Fiction
Behaving Bradley	Nodelman, Perry	Fiction
Big Mouth & Ugly Girl	Oates, Joyce	Fiction
Breaking Point	Flinn, Alex	Fiction
Breathing Underwater	Flinn, Alex	Fiction
Burger Wuss	Anderson, M. T.	Fiction
Catalyst	Anderson, Laurie Halse	Fiction
Charlie's Story	Friel, Maeve	Fiction
Dog Eat Dog	Lynch, Chris	Fiction
Eight Seconds	Ferris, Jean	Fiction
Extreme Elvin	Lynch, Chris	Fiction
Fighting Back (Dear Diary)	Lanham, Cheryl	Fiction
Firmament	Bowler, Tim	Fiction
Hey Nostradamus	Copeland, Douglas	Fiction
Hidden Talents	Lubar, David	Fiction
Hoot	Hiassen, Carl	Fiction
Inventing Elliot	Gardner, Graham	Fiction
Kissing the Rain	Brooks, Kevin	Fiction
Lord of the Flies	Golding, William	Fiction
Men of Stone	Friesen, Gail	Fiction
Midget	Bowler, Tim	Fiction
Missing Abby	Weatherly, Lee	Fiction
My Life as a Smashed Burrito with Extra Hot...	Myers, Bill	Fiction
One Fat Summer	Lipsyte, Robert	Fiction
Peace Like a River	Enger, Leif	Fiction
Playing in Traffic	Giles, Gail	Fiction
Prep	Coburn, Jake	Fiction
Romiette and Julio	Draper, Sharon	Fiction
Shattering Glass	Giles, Gail	Fiction
Shooter	Myers, Walter Dean	Fiction
Speak	Anderson, Laurie Halse	Fiction
Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes	Crutcher, Chris	Fiction
Tangerine	Bloor, Edward	Fiction
The Brimstone Journals	Koertoe, Ronald	Fiction
The Chocolate War	Cormier, Robert	Fiction
The Girls	Koss, Amy	Fiction
The Maze	Hughes, Monica	Fiction
The Misfits	Howe, James	Fiction

Conflicts in Literature - Opportunities for Problem Solving

The Pack	Carbone, Elisa	Fiction
Touching Spirit Bear	Mikaelsen, Ben	Fiction
Twelve Days in August	Murrow, Liza	Fiction
Walking Naked	Brugman, Alyssa	Fiction
We All Fall Down	Cormier, Robert	Fiction
Whale Talk	Crutcher, Chris	Fiction
When She Was Good	Mazer, Norma Fox	Fiction
Who the Man	Lynch, Chris	Fiction
Who Will Tell My Brother	Carvell, Marlene	Fiction
You Don't Know Me	Klass, David	Fiction
Wringer	Spinelli, Jerry	Fiction
Crash	Spinelli, Jerry	Fiction
Stargirl	Spinelli, Jerry	Fiction
Anything Can Happen in High School	McCants, William	High Schol Fiction
Carrie	King, Stephen	High Schol Fiction
Crooked	McNeal, Tom & Laura	High Schol Fiction
Out of Control	Mazer, Norma Fox	High Schol Fiction
Perfect Snow	Martin, Nora	High Schol Fiction
The Loser's Club	Lekich, John	High Schol Fiction
The Shredderman Series	Van Draanan, Wendelin	Intermediate
Arthur's April Fool	Brown, Marc Tolon	Nonfiction
Bullies and Gangs	Johnson, Julie	Nonfiction
Dealing with Bullying	Johnston, Marianne	Nonfiction
Odd Girl Speaks Out	Simmons, Rachel	Nonfiction
Talking About Bullying	Powell, Jillian	Nonfiction
The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander	Coloroso, Barbara	Parent handbook
Why Doesn't Anybody Like Me	Marano, Hara Estroff	Parent handbook
Bailey the Bug Bully	Boyd, L	Picture book
Big Bad Bruce	Peet, Bill	Picture book
Bootsie Barker Bites	Bottner, Barbara	Picture book
Crickwing	Cannon, Janell	Picture book
Enemy Pie	Munson, Derek	Picture book
Hazel's Amazing Mother	Wells, Rosemary	Picture book
Hey, Little Ant	Hoose, Phillip M	Picture book
Hooway for Wodney Wat	Lester, Helen	Picture book
King of the Playground	Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds	Picture book
Kit and Kat	De Paola, Tomie	Picture book
Loudmouth George and the Sixth-Grade Bully	Carlson, Nancy L.	Picture book
Nobody Knew What to Do	McCain, Becky R	Picture book
Sinom's Hook	Burnett, Karen Gedig	Picture book
Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon	Lovell, Patty	Picture book
The Ant Bully	Nickle, John	Picture book
The Berenstain Bears and the Bully	Berenstain, Stan	Picture book
The Recess Queen	O'Neill, Alexis	Picture book
Tippy Toe Chick Go	Shannon, George	Picture book
Toestomper and the Caterpillars	Collicott, Sharleen	Picture book
All Summer in a Day	Bradbury, Ray	Short story
The Thanksgiving Visitor	Capote, Truman	Short story
Amazing Bone and other Caldecott classics	Stolz, Mary	Video
Hello, Mrs. Piggle Wiggle	MacDonald, Betty Bard	Video

Answers to the Quiz

1. disagree
2. agree
3. disagree
4. disagree
5. disagree
6. disagree
7. agree
8. agree
9. agree
10. agree
11. disagree
12. agree
13. disagree
14. disagree
15. agree
16. agree
17. disagree
18. agree
19. agree
20. disagree

BULLY ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Jackie Glasgow, Ph.D.

- Anderson, Laurie Halse (2002). *Catalyst*. New York: Viking Childrens Books.
Eighteen-year-old Kate, who sometimes chafes at being a preacher's daughter, finds herself losing control in her senior year as she faces down her tormentor, the possibility that she may not be accepted by the college of her choice, and an unexpected death.
- Ayers, Katherine (2003). *Macaroni Boy*. New York: Delacorte Press.
Mike Costa lives in the Strip, Pittsburgh's warehouse district. He helps males in his family run the Costa Brothers Fine Foods during the Depression. Mike is tormented by a bully, Andy Simms, who also may hold the answer to the mystery of a strange and fatal illness that is plaguing the community.
- Blume, Judy (1974). *Blubber*. Scarsdale, NY: Bradbury Press.
Jill goes along with the rest of the fifth-grade class in tormenting a classmate and then finds out what it's like when she, too, becomes a target.
- Coleman, Michael (1998). *Weirdo's War*. New York: Orchard Books.
Daniel, a brilliant loner nicknamed Weirdo, is forced by his father to go on a school field trip to learn to be more social. During a trust experience, Daniel has fallen into a cave with his worst tormentor, Tozer. They are scared and in grave danger B all they have is each other.
- Cormier, Robert (1974, 1997). *Chocolate War*. New York: Knopf.
Does Jerry Renault dare to disturb the universe? You wouldn't think that his refusal to sell chocolates during his school's fundraiser would create such a stir, but it does. To some, Jerry is a hero, but to others, he becomes a scapegoat--a target for their pent-up hatred of his tormentors. And Jerry? He's just trying to stand up for what he believes, but perhaps there is no way for him to escape becoming a pawn in this game of control.
- Curtis, Christopher Paul (1995). *The Watsons Go to Birmingham B 1963*. New York: Delacorte Press.
Ten-year old Kenny is bullied by his older brother Byron, an Aofficial juvenile delinquent.@ Thirteen year old Byron has already failed two grades and seems to me making no progress toward improvement. Instead of devoting time to schoolwork, Byron spends his free time finding out how much trouble he can create at home and at school.
- Goobie, Beth (2002). *Sticks and Stones*. Victoria, BC Canada: Orca Book Publishers.
After developing an unearned reputation as a slut, Jujube finds a novel way to take on her tormentors and help a group of girls win back their self-esteem.
- Herman, John (1998). *Deep Waters*. Philomel.
From his older brother, thirteen-year-old Andrew hears all about Camp Winasaukee and is thrilled to be there, making new friends, excelling in swimming, and meeting his first girlfriend. However, he comes under the influence of the clever, manipulative, rule-breaking Julian, who constantly fuels the rivalry between two male counselors over an attractive female counselor named Marsha. When the death of one of the rivals occurs, Andrew must examine his role in the tragedy, which still haunts him two years later.

Hiaasen, Carl (2002). *Hoot*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

As a new kid moving to Florida, Roy Eberhardt is plagued by the bully, Dana Matherson. With his face masked against the school bus window, Roy spotted a running boy who introduces him to the Floridian creatures and environmental issues which distracts him from the bully.

Lipsyte, Robert. (1977, 1991). *One Fat Summer*. New York: HarperTrophy.

Overweight Bobby Marks hates the summertime because he can't hide under heavy clothing. Then he gets a job mowing the grounds of Dr. Kahn's estate. Bobby not only has to contend with the hot, sweaty job, but he is constantly afraid that he is going to be beat up by a boy who has problems and thinks the only way to feel better is to try to beat up Bobby.

O'Dell, Kathleen (2003). *Agnes Parker: Girl in Progress*. New York: Deal Books.

In describing Agnes' Parker's reactions from everything from enduring bullying at the hands of Peggy Neidermeyer, to needing glasses, to breaking her arm (and having to deal with a cast), to the ins-and-outs of friendship with her best friend Prejean and Joe, the new boy in school, O'Dell helps readers to understand the range of emotions and experiences a 6th grade girl feels.

Rapp, Adam (1997). *The Buffalo Tree*. New York: HarperCollins.

The brutal world of a juvenile detention center is the setting for this compelling story of survival and redemption, re-created through a 13 year old's inventive use of language. Sura with his best friend Coly Jo make their way against the meanest of bullies.

Sachar, Louis (1998). *Holes*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Stanley Yelnats has been accused and convicted of a crime, despite his protests that he is innocent. He elects to be sent to Camp Green Lake, a sort of boot camp. Each day Stanley and his fellow detainees are sent to the dried-out lake bed and made to dig deep holes as he learns to get along with the pack of boys who bully him.

Spinelli, Jerry (1996). *Crash*. New York: Dell Yearling.

Crash Coogan is a bullying jock who narrates the story of this tale. Ever since first grade Crash has been tormenting Penn Ward, a skinny vegetarian Quaker boy, who lives in a tiny former garage with his aged parents. Now that they're in seventh grade, Penn becomes an even better target: not only does Penn still wear outdated used clothes, he joins the cheerleading squad. But even though Crash becomes the school's star football player and wears the most expensive togs from the mall, he still can't get what Penn has?

Spinelli, Jerry (1990). *Maniac Magee*. New York: HarperTrophy.

Jeffrey Magee is tired of watching the silent feud between his unhappy aunt and uncle who took him in as an orphaned toddler. He runs away (literally) to a town 200 miles away. While seeking acceptance, Magee discovers something new to him: racial prejudice. He learns that both white and black people are ignorant about the other group, feeling threatened and uncomfortable. Jeffrey "Maniac" Magee tackles this challenge by taking on the bully.

Spinelli, Jerry (2000). *Stargirl*. New York: Knopf.

Stargirl Caraway, is a new 10th grader at Arizona's Mica Area High School who wears pioneer dresses and kimonos to school, strums a ukulele in the cafeteria, laughs when there are no jokes, and dances when there is no music. The whole school is stunned by her, including our 16-year-old narrator Leo Borlock. In time, incredulity gives way to acceptance and then to hostility when she roots for the school=s opposing team. The growing hostility comes to a head when she is verbally flogged by resentful students on Leo's televised *Hot Seat* show in an episode that is too terrible to air.

School Bully Awareness Chart

Date Time	Bully	Victim	What Happened	Motivation and form of Bullying	Response of Victim	Response of Bystanders

Bully Awareness Chart for Kate Malone in Anderson's *Catalyst*

Page	Bully	Victim	What Happened	Motivation and form of Bullying	Response of Victim	Response of Bystanders
p. 28	Teri Litch	Kate	"Teri beat me up every year in elementary school, fall and spring."	Scape-goating	"I turned the other cheek for a while, then I learned to run."	No information
p. 28	Teri	Kate	"Teri gives the finger [for not sticking up for her against the football guys]."	Frustration	Leaves the scene	No reactions
p. 54	Teri	Kate	Teri steals Kate's watch at the church dinner.	Gets back for losing her watch in cafeteria fight.	Rage. Chases after her.	"Oh, no," Betty says. "She couldn't do a thing like that. She was sweet as can be."

A Conflict Resolution Lesson Plan for Simon's Hook
Peaceable School Grant
Central Middle School of Science

Objectives:

Students will:

1. be able to explain the metaphor between "biting the hook" and getting into a conflict.
2. be able to recite the five alternative actions to "biting the hook".
3. be able to self reflect on events in their lives that are the "hooks" and how they react to those "hooks".

Gathering: (5 minutes)

Students will participate in a gathering that involves the students volunteering to answer, "Has anyone ever teased you, if so, what did they say?" The teacher starts the activity by tossing the stuffed fish to a student with their hand raised. The student shares and then tosses the stuffed fish to another student with their hand in the air. This continues for the 5 minutes or until all who wants to share has.

Lesson: (30 minutes)

1. The teacher reads aloud Simon's Hook.
2. After the story is finished, the teacher passes out the worksheet. (See attachment)
3. The students will be encouraged to complete the worksheet. The teacher will check for understanding and correct answers for the five alternative actions for "biting the hook".
4. As understanding is being checked for, the teacher can go around to each student and stamp his/her paper with a fish/good job related stamp.

5. On the bottom half of the worksheet, the students will be asked to write down two examples of "hooks" they have experienced. Along with the "hooks" the students need to list five alternative actions that they can do instead of "biting".
6. Have students share their "hooks" and one alternative action. The stuffed fish could be used again to determine turns.

Evaluation:

1. Students will complete a fill in the blank poem that illustrates the five alternative actions to "biting the hook".
2. The teacher will go through the worksheets during the lesson to check for understanding and will grade for accurate actions that go with the alternative ones given in the story.
3. Students will be given two story starters about kids being teased and will be asked to complete the stories using two or more of the five alternative actions.
4. The alternative actions will be revisited throughout the year.

List the five actions you can do not to bite a hook:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Fill in the "hook" will a bite you have taken and give five actions that you could do instead of biting.

