

Bullying and Teasing

for Middle Grade Readers:

Clements, A. Jake Drake Bully Buster. It is up to Jake Drake to take matters into his own hands when Link Baxter, SuperBully moves into the neighborhood.
j Clements

Collard, S. Dog Sense. After he and his mother move from California to Montana to live with his grandfather, thirteen-year-old Guy gradually adjusts to the unfamiliar surroundings, makes a friend, and learns to deal with a bully, with the help of his Frisbee-catching dog, Streak. j Collard

Cottrell Boyce, F. The Astounding Broccoli Boy. Rory Rooney likes to be prepared for anything, but when he inexplicably turns green and finds himself in an experimental hospital ward with his nemesis, school bully Tommy-Lee "Grim" Komissky, everyone is baffled but Rory believes he and Grim have become superheroes. j Cotrell Boyce

DeFelice, C. Fort. Cynthia Eleven-year-old Wyatt and his friend Augie aren't looking for a fight. They're having the best summer of their lives hanging out in the fort they built in the woods, fishing and hunting, cooking over a campfire, and sleeping out. But when two older boys mess with the fort—and with another kid who can't fight back—the friends are forced to launch Operation Doom, with unexpected results for all concerned, in this novel about two funny and very real young heroes. j DeFelice

Donofrio, B. Thank You, Lucky Stars. It's the first day of fifth grade, and Ally is psyched. She and her best friend, Betsy, are in the same class, and have already planned on singing in the annual talent show together. But it's not long before she sees that Betsy has made a new best friend, and Ally is no longer on her radar screen. Not to mention that the weird new kid, Tina, has glommed on to Ally. In this phenomenally accurate and readable portrayal of the trials and tribulations of fifth grade, readers will watch a quirky, sensitive, and extraordinarily likeable girl try to survive. Narrated in Ally's distinctive first person voice, *Thank You, Lucky Stars* beautifully illustrates that it is possible to be unpopular, individualistic, nice, and still have fun. j Donofrio

Doodler, T. Super Fly: The World's Smallest Superhero! This is the story of Eugene Flystein, a small and nerdy, mild-mannered housefly, who also happens to be the world's smallest superhero and humanity's greatest crime fighter. Can this four-eyed little bugger, along with his trusty sidekick Fantastic Flea, take on Crazy Cockroach and his army of insect baddies? It's housefly vs. cockroach in this epic battle of good vs. evil. Who will come out on top? Stay tuned! jDoodler

Evangelista, B. Gifted. George R. Clark is gifted. Mentally, he's light-years ahead of his classmates. His parents worship him, and his teachers adore him. But socially, George is at the bottom of the curve. Most of his classmates avoid him—if he's lucky. Until the Bruise Brothers, the intellectually challenged members of the school football team, decide they want George to pass a test of their own design. Only the fact that George's father is the school principal has saved him in the past. But his father isn't going on the eighth grade science field trip, and George has a feeling it's going to be open season on dorks. Suddenly thrown into a crash course on human nature, without his father to protect him, the most intellectually gifted kid in the eighth-grade might actually learn something before the end of the trip . . . if he survives it. j Evangelista

Gervay, S. I Am Jack. Eleven-year-old Jack suffers terrible headaches as he worries that his grandmother will soon die, his mother's boyfriend will move in--or leave--and especially that the school bully will get revenge for Jack's ill-timed joke at his expense. j Gervay

Golus, C. Take A Stand!: What You Can Do About Bullying. j 302.3 Golus

Lennon, M. Confessions of a So-Called Middle Child. Meet Charlie C. Cooper, reformed bully, and misguided fashionista, as she tries to fit in at her new school in Los Angeles. As a middle child, she knows what it feels like to be overlooked. To get attention, she resorts to becoming a prankster, which leads to big trouble. So her therapist gives her a seventh-grade mission—she must turn over a new leaf, find the most bullied girl at her school ("Marta the Farta"), and become her friend. Charlie faces down the mean girls and learns to help Marta, she uncovers the meaning of true friendship. j Lennon

Mackall, D. Larger-Than-Life Lara. When Lara Phelps walks into Laney Grafton's fourth-grade class, Laney feels the air change. Lara is fat. Really fat. Finally, there will be someone else for the boys to pick on, Laney thinks. But as the class prepares for the school play, Lara doesn't act the way a fat kid should. She's confident. She's happy. And nothing, it seems, can change her positive attitude. Until one day, when Laney's classmates do the unthinkable. j Mackell

O'Dell, K. Agnes Parker... Girl in Progress. Eleven-year-old Agnes Parker has always been your everyday girl. But this year, Agnes is determined to become a whole new person. Maybe not a whole new person exactly, but just a better version of the girl she's always been. Someone who's not such an easy target for bullygirls like Peggy Neidermeyer. Someone who is as cool and confident as her best friend, Prejean. Will the new Agnes Parker make it through a school year filled with new glasses, broken arms, and a cute new boy in school? j O'Dell

Paterson, K. The Field of the Dogs. Josh, who has just moved to Vermont with his mother, stepfather and new baby brother, must deal with the bullying of a

neighbor boy and discovers that his dog, whom he hears talking with other dogs, is also facing a bully of his own. j Paterson

Patterson, J. Middle School: How I Survived Bullies, Broccoli, And Snake Hill. Rafe Khatchadorian is ready for a fun summer at camp--until he finds out it's a summer *school* camp! Luckily, Rafe easily makes friends with his troublemaking cabin mates and bunkmate, a boy nicknamed Booger-Eater, who puts up with endless teasing from the other kids. Rafe soon realizes there's more to a person than a nickname, though, and Booger-Eater might be the kind of friend you want on your side when the boys from the Cool Cabin attack. j Patterson

Repka, J. The Stupendous Dodgeball Fiasco. When eleven-year-old Phillip gets slammed in the face with a speeding ball in gym class, he decides to take the dodgeball bully to court. But can a circus boy take on the Unofficial Dodgeball Capital of the World? This uproariously funny middle-grade novel carries an inspiring message about sticking to your beliefs, however unpopular they may be. j Repka

Van Draanen, W. Secret Identity. Alvin Bixby: Hulking, knuckles of steel, hideous breath, foul temper. Kids call him: Bubba. Nolan Byrd: Puny, power walker, math genius, can't keep shoes tied. Kids call him: Nerd. Bubba has been the bane of Nolan's existence for five long years. So when Mr. Green asks the class to become reporters, Nolan decides he'll write an exposé—on Bubba. He doesn't want to sign his name to it (that'd be suicidal), so Nolan creates a secret identity for himself—on the Internet. He launches Shredderman.com as a place where truth and justice prevail—and bullies get what's coming to them. j Van Draanen