

Top Ten Reads for Elementary Students

The following books are geared for early and intermediate elementary students. They are considered “Top Ten Reads” based upon customer reviews of four or five stars from Amazon.com and reviews obtained from the *School Library Journal*. A more extensive list of book titles and other resources can be found on the Alberti Center website (gse.buffalo.edu/alberticenter)

Carla’s Sandwich by Debbie Herman

Carla enjoys bringing creative sandwiches to school, despite her classmates' teasing, but when Buster, the meanest bully in school, forgets his lunch, his opinion of Carla's strange sandwiches changes.

Book Type: Fiction
Subjects: Acceptance, Bullies, Individuality, Tolerance,
Reading Level: Interest Level: K-3

Dragonbreath by Ursula Vernon

Danny Dragonbreath and his friend Wendell get an up-close underwater tour of the Sargasso Sea from Danny's sea-serpent cousin, encountering giant squid and mako sharks--and learn about standing up to bullies in the process.

Book Type: Fiction
Subjects: Bullies
Reading Level: Interest Level: 3-6; Lexile: 700

Katie Woo: No More Teasing by Fran Manushkin

A mean boy always teases Katie Woo. It makes Katie sad and mad. How can she make the bully stop teasing her?

Book Type: Fiction
Subjects: Bullies, Ethnic Group, National Origin
Reading Level: Interest Level: K-3; Lexile: 400; F&P: J

Middle School: How to Deal by Nuts and Bolts Girls and Sara Borden

Written as a seventh grade school project, this book by five real-life middle-school girls offers straight-from-the-heart advice on everything from being popular (or not) to handling more responsibility at home or school.

Book Type: Non-Fiction
Subjects: Bullies, Friendship
Reading Level: Interest Level: 5-8

My Dog's a Scaredy-Cat: A Halloween Tail by Henry Winkler

Hank Zipzer has come up with a unique Halloween costume for the parade, but his friends think his idea is a little over the top.

Book Type: Fiction
Subjects: Bullies, Special Needs
Reading Level: Interest Level: 3-6; Lexile: 750; F&P: R

My Secret Bully by Trudy Ludwig,

THE SECRET'S OUT ON BULLYING Here is the all-too-familiar story of Monica. She and Katie have been friends since kindergarten. Monica loves being around her when she's nice. But there are times when Katie can be just plain mean. And Monica doesn't understand why. Monica is a target of relational aggression, emotionally bullying among friends who will use name-calling and manipulation to humiliate and exclude. But with a little help from a supportive adult-her mother-Monica learns to cope and thrive by facing her fears and reclaiming power from her bully.

Book Type: Fiction
Subjects: Bullies, Friendship
Reading Level: Interest Level: K-3

One by Kathryn Otoshi

Red picks on Blue while Yellow, Orange, Green, and Purple wonder what they can do until One unites the colors and helps everybody learn about acceptance, tolerance, and boundaries amidst bullying while the reader learns numbers and primary and secondary colors.

Book Type: Fiction
Subjects: Acceptance, Bullies, Tolerance, All Protected Classes
Reading Level: Interest Level: K-3

Say Something by Peggy Moss

At this school, there are some children who push and tease and bully. Sometimes they hurt other kids by just ignoring them. The girl in this story sees it happening, but she would never do these mean things herself. Then one day something happens that shows her that being a silent bystander isn't enough. Will she take some steps on her own to help another kid?

Book Type: Fiction
Subjects: Bullies, Bystander
Reading Level: Interest Level: 3-6; Lexile: 430

Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon by Patty Lovell

Even when the class bully at her new school makes fun of her, Molly remembers what her grandmother told her and she feels good about herself.

Book Type: Fiction
Subjects: Bullies, Extended Family, Self -Acceptance
Reading Level: Interest Level: K-3; Lexile: 560; F&P: L

Wodney Wat's Wobot by Helen Lester

Wodney is forced to face off against big bully Camilla Capybara for a second time, but this time he is prepared with a special robot that helps him pronounce his r's and could scare away Camilla for good.

Book Type: Fiction
Subjects: Bullies, Speech Disorders, Special Needs
Reading Level: Interest Level: K-3; Lexile: 460