

Bully Blockers - Reading Guide

Author: Celeste Shally Illustrator: David Harrington

Themes: response to bullying, peers with autism, integrity, positive peer pressure

Lesson/Notes: This book covers multiple topics in one fluid story. Caleb notices peers' differences including Mark's autism, knows it is wrong to make fun of others, empathizes with bullied peer, and is led by his conscience to find a way to help. Caleb unites his peers to stop bullying on the playground. Children may mistake the adults in the story as uncaring or unable to stop the bullying because the students resolved the problem on their own. Point out the club rule "We will tell a teacher."

Discussion Questions

- *When was a time you felt embarrassed?*
- *Did Mark know how to protect himself from bullying? (No)*
- *Would Caleb be tattling if he told Mr. Gordon? (No, because Mark was being hurt.)*
- *Would you want to be friends with someone who acts like Brandon? Why or why not?*
- *How did Caleb stop the bullying? (Bully Blockers club)*
- *How did Mark feel when his classmates stood up for him? (happy, relieved)*

Activity: Club Rules

Supplies: paper, markers

- Encourage child to design his/her own Bully Blockers club sign and rules.
 - *Would you change the name of the club?*
 - *Would you use the same rules Caleb and Tommy used, or add some new rules?*
 - *Who do you think might want to join your club?*