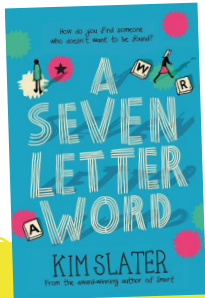


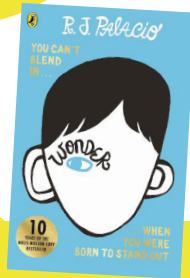
# BOOKS ABOUT BULLYING

## 7-12 YEARS



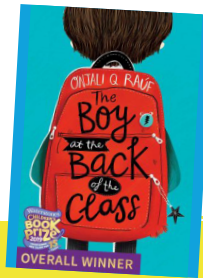
**A Seven Letter Word**  
Kim Slater

Bullied at school and ignored by his father, the only way to get out the words which are bouncing around in his head is by writing long letters to his ma which he knows she will never read, and by playing Scrabble online. But when Finlay is befriended by an online Scrabble player called Alex, everything changes. Could it be his mother secretly trying to contact him? Or is there something more sinister going on?



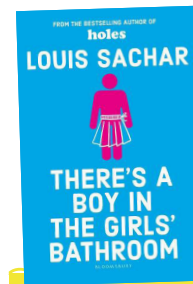
**Wonder**  
R.J. Palacio

Wonder is a brutally powerful story of a 10-year-old boy named August Pullman, who has a facial anomaly. He is an ordinary kid who plays Xbox, is obsessed with Star Wars, but despite the 27 operations done for his face he will never look normal. August had been homeschooled since he was small and he is remarkably smart for children of his age. This story commences with August going to a school called Beecher Prep for beginning his fifth grade. The story brings out all the ups and downs he faces from his first day of school until his graduation. This book is very realistic since it depicts how August gets bullied and is socially isolated for being different.



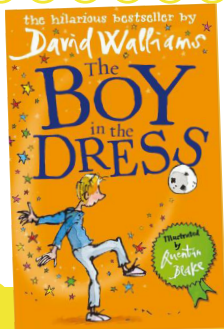
**The Boy at the Back of the Class**  
Onjali Q. Rauf

When a new boy joins their class, a group of children try to befriend him. They soon learn that Ahmet is a refugee and has been separated from his family. None of the grown-ups seem to be able to help him, so the friends come up with a daring plan, embarking on an extraordinary adventure.



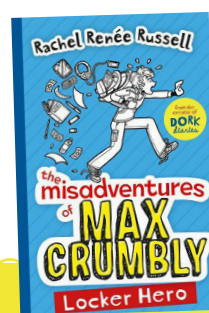
**There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom**  
Louis Sachar

Bradley Chalkers is the oldest kid in the fifth grade. He tells enormous lies. He picks fights with girls. No one likes him—except Carla, the new school counselor. She thinks Bradley is sensitive and generous, and knows that Bradley could change, if only he weren't afraid to try. But when you feel like the most-hated kid in the whole school, believing in yourself can be the hardest thing in the world...



**Boy In A Dress**  
David Walliams

Dennis loves football but he also loves fashion and Vogue magazine. His lorry-driving father and laddish older brother don't like or understand his fascination with dresses and since his mother left home, he has no-one to turn to. Then Dennis meets Lisa, an older, cooler girl who wants to be a designer and with her help he realises that it's ok to be different.



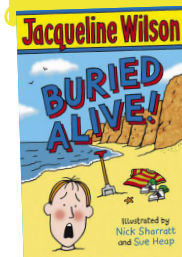
**The Misadventures of Max Crumbly**  
Rachel Renee Russell

Max Crumbly is awkwardly adorable. He is anxious, suffers from asthma, can't talk to girls and is unable to defend himself from the school bully, but he never lets any of that get him down. Written in journal format and peppered with humorous illustrations, Max's (mis)adventures are sure to be a hit.



**Blubber**  
Judy Blume

Blubber is a thick layer of fat that lies under the skin and over the muscles of whales. . . .When Linda innocently reads out her class project, everyone finds it funny. Linda can't help it if she's fat, but what starts as a joke leads to a sustained and cruel ritual of humiliation. Jill knows she should defend Linda, but at first she's too scared. When she eventually stands up to the bullies, she becomes their next victim - and what's worse, Linda is now on their side. . . .



**Buried Alive**  
Jacqueline Wilson

Tim can't wait to go on holiday - especially as he gets to bring his friend Biscuits along. But their trip unexpectedly becomes truly, terribly adventurous when an encounter with two local bully-boys threatens to disrupt the fun.



**Bad Girls**  
Jacqueline Wilson

The book revolves around a ten-year-old girl called Mandy being bullied by three girls called Kim, Sarah and Melanie. She later befriends a wayward teenage girl called Tanya who is in foster care and battling her own personal demons.

# Anti-Bullying Reading Activities for 7-12 years

Our Youth Action Group suggested three reading lists for learners up to Age 6, Age 7-12 and Age 13 and over, to help them explore anti-bullying themes and outcomes as well as showing support for our 'Listen Up! (Respect our Rights)' campaign.

You can introduce the learners to the campaign theme and call to action using our **Assembly Video**, available at [www.respectme.org.uk/listenup](http://www.respectme.org.uk/listenup). We also have free learning resources aimed at Early Years, Primary and Secondary ages available for download.

## Anti-bullying books: 7-12 Years

Books help to develop children and young people's imagination, creativity, empathy and emotional intelligence. They are also a useful way to explore – and even launch discussions about – experiences of bullying and the impacts bullying behaviour can have.

## Anti-bullying reading activities

### You will need

- Access to books on the reading list, via your school or local library
- Pencils/pens
- Paper/coloured paper
- Optional:
  - wall space for reading reviews
  - scissors and tacks

## Suggested activities for learners

**Step 1:** Ask the learners to discuss the titles and the covers of their chosen book. Which ones do the children find most interesting? Do the covers make them want to – or not want to – read the book? What do they think might happen in these books? Have any of the learners already read any of the books?

**Step 2:** Ask the learners which books they are aware of, and which (if any) they have read. What did they think of them? Do the learners know of any other books about bullying? Perhaps the learners could build on the Youth Action Group's list to create their own.

**Step 3a:** Choose a book and read it together as a class OR allow learners to choose their own book from the list. If reading/choosing their own book, ask learners to team up with a reading partner. All learners should give their partner a synopsis of their book, outlining their personal highlights.

**Step 3b:** Once finished, ask learners to write a short review of the book (perhaps on a postcard or outline of a book shape). Display the reviews on the wall or around the room. Another option is to use leaf shapes for the reviews, creating a reading tree display on the wall.



**ANTI-BULLYING WEEK**

**Monday 13 to Friday 17 November 2023**

# Anti-Bullying Reading Activities for 7-12 years

## Extended task options

### Writing task:

Ask learners to select one of the following...

1. Write a diary entry from the perspective of a character in the book – this must not be the main character. Explain what has happened and how they feel about it.
2. Imagine the main character is their friend. Write a short drama script between the two of them, in which the child helps – or talks about a situation with – the main character.
3. Write about a time they have experienced bullying, describing how they felt at the time. This may also include how they resolved or moved on from the situation.

**Discussion task:** Use the books as a launching point to discuss bullying. You could cover:

- the different ways that bullying happens
- how bullying feels
- how learners can help a friend who is being bullied
- what learners can do if they are being bullied.

Bullying can be an emotive subject that can trigger some difficult feelings. Children and young people should be encouraged to speak to the sponsoring adult if this occurs, or contact Childline Scotland on 0800 1111 to speak to someone anonymously.

## Further information

Visit the Book Trust's website for [A teacher's guide to the books that help children being bullied | BookTrust](#).

## Share your book reviews with us!

Engage further in the 'Listen Up! (Respect our Rights)' campaign by sharing photos of the finished book review displays or reading trees on social media. Remember to tag us [@\\_respectme\\_](#) on Twitter, and to include **#AntiBullyingWeek** and **#ImListening** in your post.