

STOP the Bully by Karen Tyrrell

Teacher Notes: STOP the Bully by Karen Tyrrell

A read-aloud book suitable for children, teachers, parents and counsellors.

Age Level: 9 – 12 years Word Count: 20K

Supported by Kids Helpline. Reviewed by Kids Book Review, teachers & school counsellors

Aligned with Kids Matter Australian curriculum

Discussion Ideas

Knowledge and Literal Understanding

- Bullying is a wide-spread problem in schools and in the community.
- We can empower ourselves to help prevent bullying or stop bullying.
- In what order are the characters introduced in the story?
- Where are the scenes set in STOP the Bully book?

Inferential and Critical Thinking

- What problems did Brian have, BEFORE he started Wymore State School?
- Who helped Brian overcome the Bully?
- How did Brian STOP the Bully?
- What strategies did the STOP the Bully Club present to the class?
- How does Brian reconcile with the Bully?
- How does Miss Bliss, the teacher STOP the class from bullying her?

Literacy Skills

Word Building

- Word Endings – adding 'ed' *wiped, clenched, cleared, labelled, chanted, pointed, whispered, glowed, tapped.* Ending rule – change y to i –studied, tried,
- Adding ING: *quivering, shaking, trembling, bouncing, scanning, clutching, burning,*
- Vocabulary *School : playground, classroom, whiteboard, undercover, uniform,*
- Emotion Words: *frightened, trembling, frightened, snarled, embarrassed,*
- High Frequency Words – *bully, stop, race,*
- Onomatopoeia – *ring, groan, knock, giggle, thump, rush, ouch, burp, crunch, bang, zoom, snap, whimper, burp,* (see Drama)

Grammar

- Naming Words – nouns – find the naming words in the story.
- Action Words – verbs – (see also Word Endings and Drama)

Comprehension

- Family Comprehension questions - Activity sheet
- STOP the Bully comprehension questions - Activity sheet
- Choose the BEST answer - Activity sheet
- How did Brian and Amelia STOP the Bully? - Activity sheet
- How can you STOP the Bully? List the strategies - Activity sheet

Writing

- Have you ever been bullied? What did you do to STOP the Bully? Write a story about your experiences.
- You find someone being bullied. What do you do next? Write your action plan.
- Could this story have been about grown-ups? Re-write and illustrate the story with adults instead of Brian and his classmates.
- Acrostic Poem – BULLY or STOP

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Literature

- Read non-fiction texts about bullying.
- Study anti-bullying posters: message/ slogan, design, colours, artwork
- Compare other fiction texts e.g. I am Jack

Cross Curricular

Social Skills

- Discuss how to make and keep a friend
- **Group activity:** Children sit in a circle. One child (child 1) starts by saying "If I was being bullied". The child next to them (child 2) offers a solution "you could ask someone to be your buddy". Then child 2 turns to the next child (child 3) in the circle and says "if I was being bullied." and child 3 offers a solution, and so on around the circle. This activity is fun and also generates options that children in the group may not have thought of.
- **Kindness Day:**
Initiate a special day where the focus is being kind to each other. Encourage kids to share and be involved with each other.

Maths

- Take a class survey on how many kids are being bullied eg teased, pushed, blocked etc
- Take a survey of strategies that work and don't work to STOP the Bully

Craft

- **Create STOP the Bully posters** (SEE Literature) Use *textas, crayons, paint, pencil, collage, art paper, cardboard,*
- **Anti-bullying tree**
Cut out leaf shapes and a large tree from paper. On the leaves, get children to write suggestions about how to help someone who is being bullied. Pin leaves on the tree to create the sense that 'Together we can stop bullying!'

Art

- Illustrate a scene from the text or from the 'people' story as outlined in *Writing*.
- Colour-in STOP the Bully sheets using bright colours. Activity sheets

Drama

Pretend you are...

- Walking a straight line showing self-confidence: walking tall, shoulders back, chin up.
- Ignore the bully, and walk way.

Present a STOP the Bully PLAY

Show range of emotions using facial expressions and hand gestures ...

scared, sad, confident, assertive, friendly, unfriendly, mean, aggressive, guilty, proud, nervous, caring, sorry, kind.