



Confessions of a Former Bully

Trudy Ludwig , Beth Adams (Illustrator)

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After Katie gets caught teasing a schoolmate, she's told to meet with Mrs. Petrowski, the school counselor, so she can make right her wrong and learn to be a better friend. Bothered at first, it doesn't take long before Katie realizes that bullying has hurt not only the people around her, but her, too. Told from the unusual point of view of the bullier rather than the bullied, *Confessions of a Former Bully* provides kids with real life tools they can use to identify and stop relational aggression.

Confessions of a Former Bully Details

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From Reader Review Confessions of a Former Bully for online ebook

Beth says

After Katie gets caught bullying a classmate, she is required to meet with the school counselor on a regular basis to rehabilitate her.

While I think this book has a lot of worthwhile material to help teach students about how to deal with bullying, I just didn't buy Katie converting to "rehabilitation mode" so quickly. I understand that the exposition in a picture book has to be fairly brief, but very rarely do bullies convert so quickly. Not to mention how easily Katie's parents were willing to accept that their daughter was a bully. More often than not, the parents' reaction is more like, "My daughter would never do anything like that."

Despite my criticisms, this book is a great impetus for discussing the logistics of how to handle bullying with kids, whether you're being bullied or you're a bystander.

Kimberly says

This is by far the best book I have read on bullying in a long time. Trudy Ludwig weaves great advice into the voice of the main character, Katie, providing explanations about bullying behavior, tattling, reporting and other behaviors. Based on research, she provides facts and data in a creative way, inspiring quotes, and practical advice for both the victim of bullying and for adults guiding students on dealing with bullying. I could see some of the examples given in the book as actual lessons in the classroom.

I highly recommend this book to parents and educators alike. It is a valuable resource for dealing with all forms of bullying, including the newest explosion of cyber-bullying.

Recommended for all ages.

Gretchen says

Description: *After Katie gets caught teasing a schoolmate, she's told to meet with Mrs. Petrowski, the school counselor, so she can make right her wrong and learn to be a better friend. Bothered at first, it doesn't take long before Katie realizes that bullying has hurt not only the people around her, but her, too. Told from the unusual point of view of the bullier rather than the bullied, Confessions of a Former Bully provides kids with real life tools they can use to identify and stop relational aggression.*

I LOVE this book. What a great topic that is so rarely talked about! Most often, a book about bullying is told from the victim's eyes. This book is incredibly important because it is told from the bully's perspective. I would give this a 5 but I felt like the drawings and overall design of the book could've been more appealing. I hope we see more books from the perspective of a bully. There is a quote that I feel goes hand in hand with bullying: "Hurting people, hurt people." As a child, I was bullied quite often (as most kids experience) and if I had understood more about why kids do that or what they may be going through at home, themselves, it probably would've given me more strength to handle it properly. This book may have put it into perspective

for me at that age.

So, I hope to see more books like this! And if not, well then I will corner those authors, call them names and take their lunch money until they do so!

(Totally kidding about that last part.)

Cristina Lane says

This realist fiction book is perfect for a fourth or fifth grade class. This graphic novel contains engaging illustrations that is sure to keep the attention of readers. Not only is this book engaging, but it also helps teach a valuable lesson on bullying.

Katie is a bully that gets called out on her actions by her principle and parents, and has to face consequences. After talking with the school guidance counselor, she decides to put together a scrapbook about bullying. This book is easy for students to follow and has accounts about what it is like to be bullied, be the bully, and how you can prevent bullying.

This book would be a wonderful choice to use for a class lesson on a social issue. Bullying is an important topic that is prevalent in many school and needs to be addressed by teachers and the administration in every school. Since this book is engaging and aimed towards an upper elementary school audience, it would be the perfect accompaniment to a lesson on bullying. It can also be used as an assignment for an individual student who seems to be battling with bullying. Due to the way the story is presented and written on the page, it would serve as a great example of a different piece of literature (a graphic novel). I have read many books about bullying, but this one seems to hit this topic with many different angles. It is sure to be beneficial to any student no matter how much or how little they have been exposed to bullying.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Marta Morrison for TeensReadToo.com

Gold Star Award Winner!

When I saw this book being offered for review, I knew I had to have it. I teach fifth grade, and have had a lot of problems with bullying in my classroom. Once I received *CONFESSIONS OF A FORMER BULLY*, I read it in one sitting (although it is really short, so that isn't hard). I then read it to my class.

Katie is a bully who gets called out on it by her principal and her parents. She has to face the consequences of her actions, and she decides to write this book to help others in the same situation.

The story is written in a simple way that elementary students can understand. It doesn't pull any punches, but states both how it feels to be bullied and to be the bully. It also gives definite ways to defuse a bully, which I believe that my students will avail themselves of.

This is an important book to be used by teachers, administrators, counselors, and parents. Bullying is destroying many children today, and we need as many tools as we can get. No one should ever be bullied,

and everyone needs to know how to combat it.

Tina says

Today's book that I am going to read has a little bit different message. It is called Confessions of a Former Bully. The words bully and bullying are used quite often now days. What do those words mean to you? What does the word former mean? In this book the narrator is a girl who used to be a bully but she never really knew it. Has anyone in here ever felt like they have been bullied? Has anyone in here ever felt like they have been a bully to someone else? You may have been bossing someone around or bullying in ways you never even realized. I want you to listen to the book and let me know how the narrator expresses empathy and who she empathizes with. This story has a great message and it is written in a certain way. After I have read the book I want you to tell me how it is written and why the author would have written the book in this particular style.

?The opening moves that I chose to introduce this book as a read aloud were:

Using prompts and dissecting the title. What is a bully and what does the word former mean.

We define the word former as used to be.

I draw on their own feelings by asking them if they have ever felt bullied or bullied someone else. Students these days throw that term around so loosely and I want to dig deep into what that word really means.

I also want them to pay attention to how the book is written. It is in a non fiction format with lots of headings and how to sections. It has great quotes from some very important people as well.

After reading I would ask why they added those quotes to the book and what did it add to the author's message.

The reason why I chose this book was because it was unique and had a different point of view.

For a bully to write a book about her experiences and feel bad about how she treated people is a great message of empathy. To realize how others feel when you treat them poorly send a strong message to students who have been in either situation. I purchased this book for this project but I am definitely going to share this with my class and urge my teammates to do the same.

(2010, June 15). Kirkus. <https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-re...>

Natalie (Natflix&Books) says

This is a nonfiction book about bullying written like a diary of a former bully. I liked that it was illustrated and easy to read, but this isn't revolutionary by any stretch. It was ok.

Jessica Velasquez says

This book has a lot of great messages for kids.

Clara says

Why I really loved this book : This book could be for all ages. It appeals to both kids and adults and I found it fascinating. At first the reader is made to think it is about a bully but then it switches to talking about the whole bullying scene, from targets, to bystanders, to how to be a good friend. It leaves no stone unturned. Trudy Ludwig has brought a real keen technique into play, that of writing a book aimed at her peers of ten – year- old students, about bullying and this is the technique she uses to explore the whole bullying landscape. Even cyber bullying.

I think this book is more important than any other book I've read or reviewed for PPBF yet. I asked my husband to read it and bought a copy for my grandson who is eleven and his mother. I want all of you to tweet about this book. It is Anti – bullying week, after all. And you will be doing all moms, students, teachers and librarians a big favor by doing this. And put it on your facebook page. Here's a big thank you in advance!

Betty White says

I am so excited to use this book with my counseling group!

Samantha Fetalvero says

Rate: 5.0

This book contains very helpful informative data as well as noteworthy quotes. Regardless of the audience, this book will apprise others to look at themselves in the mirror and think twice about their actions. It will also inform the readers that changes can be possible on both ends of the spectrum. I really appreciated the topic of this book and hopefully one day I can buy this for my nephews. It is perfect for their age group right now.

Kiki says

Great book to read with your elementary school kids. Gives several strategies can use.

Dawn Sahakian says

I really liked the notebook design of this book - it made it look like that we were really reading what "Katie" wrote. The illustrations are simple and make it look that a younger person drew them - keeping with the theme that we are to believe we are reading Katie's "book". The writing itself carries a significant message and gives the reader a perspective from the bully and how she feels. I think this would be very helpful in a

classroom (ages 7-10) to help students see how bullies think and that they may not always realize what they are doing is bullying, but also that they have feelings as well. The notebook design and writing style could be easily identifiable with young students and would most certainly engage them and could lead to a discussion regarding bullying. I really enjoyed this book.

Reader says

Great information on a topic that just about every middle-grade student has to deal with...bullying. The book is told as a fictional story/diary from the point of view of a reforming bully who must face the consequences of her actions towards other students. She meets with her parents, the principal and the school counselor, and discusses why she bullies and decides to keep a journal (what we're reading) so she can help others who might be victims of bullying. The book is packed with facts about bullying, which will help students who think they are the only ones dealing with the issue, and has great tips for dealing with bullying behavior. Because it is told from the point of view of a reforming bully, it is also great for helping bullies think about their behavior. Insets with the school counselor's "thinking points" provide plenty of discussion/thinking opportunities throughout the book. The one thing that kept this from getting 5 stars for me was the format... the diary at times seems a little preachy and contrived. I appreciate the casual, conversational tone, but wondered if it could be accomplished without the "device" of the former bully keeping a journal. And from a collection point of view, I don't know quite where this fits--it's a fiction/graphic novel story, but too short to really fit in with the rest of the fiction - in my library it will never get checked out there. But overall the strengths of this one outweigh the negatives. ~s

Tami says

Confessions of a Former Bully is an interesting book at a time when we are seeing a big anti-bullying push in our schools. It is an oversize hardcover so it looks like a picture book--although I hesitate to term it strictly as that.

It is written in the style of the popular Diary of a Wimpy Kid series by Jeff Kinney. This style is part of what makes its content easily accessible to younger students. It resonates as genuine with the reader as opposed to setting up contrived or over-used examples. The story clarifies terms and situations in an authentic character voice.

Confessions has some great practical ideas for kids dealing with bullies. It emphasizes the difference between "tattling" and "reporting." Any definitions, instructions or explanations provided are usually done in list form which helps young children process the most important points in the text as they are reading.

It's a great tool with students who are struggling with a current bully situation or as a tool in a classroom or at home to start a discussion on the topic. It can then naturally broaden into a flexible springboard for both further discussion and disclosure. It could be used as a parent resource in that it may have strategies and perspectives a parent or teacher has not considered. This one is definitely worth the read for anyone with children or who works with children.
