

# Bully for You!



*Sometimes bullies are physically brutal, sometimes the terror they induce is purely psychological. Either way, the effect of their behavior is devastating to their victims. The following novels examine bullies from all angles; be it victim, accuser, or abuser.*

## Playground by 50 Cent

Butterball, overweight, and living in a city he hates, is teased about his weight constantly. He becomes an angry young man who eventually strikes out. Now he's stuck talking to Liz, a therapist, who is trying to find out what happened the day on the playground that ended with one kid in the hospital and Butterball in detention.

## Does My Head Look Big in This? by Randa Abdel-Fattah

Amal, 16, makes the decision to start wearing the hijab full-time. Her parents, her teachers, her friends, and people on the street all react, but she stands by her decision to embrace her faith, even if it does make her a little different from everyone else.

## Picture Perfect by Elaine Marie Alphin

A gap in his memory the afternoon that his best friend disappears in a redwood forest has a fifteen-year-old photographer wondering about his own role in the mystery, and who he can turn to for help.

## Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher

When Clay receives a box containing thirteen cassette tapes recorded by his classmate Hannah, who committed suicide, he spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death.

## Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

During an end of summer party, Melinda tried to report a horrible crime but is unable to utter the words. Instead she spends the next school year being tormented, excluded, and abandoned by her classmates who assume that she reported a party instead of the crime.

## Twisted by Laurie Halse Anderson

After finally getting noticed by someone other than school bullies and his ever-angry father, Tyler, enjoys his tough new reputation and the attention of popular girl, Bethany, who just happens to be his father's boss' daughter and the sister of his biggest enemy.

## Burger Wuss by M.T. Anderson

Hoping to lose his loser image, Anthony plans revenge on a bully which results in a war between two competing fast food restaurants, Burger Queen and O'Dermott's.

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## The Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin by Josh Berk

When Will Halpin transfers from his all-deaf school into a mainstream Pennsylvania high school, he faces discrimination and bullying, but still manages to solve a mystery surrounding the death of a popular football player in his class.

## LIE by Caroline Bock

Told in several voices, a group of Long Island high school seniors conspire to protect eighteen-year-old Jimmy after he brutally assaults two Salvadoran immigrants, until they begin to see the moral implications of Jimmy's actions and the consequences of being loyal to a violent bully.

## Firmament by Tim Bowler

While struggling to cope with the death of his father, a gifted musician, fourteen-year-old Luke must deal with a dangerous bully, a lonely old woman, a blind young girl, his mother's romantic involvement, and his own musical talent.

## Leverage by Joshua Cohen

High school sophomore Danny excels at gymnastics but is bullied, like the rest of the gymnasts, by members of the football team, until an emotionally and physically scarred new student joins the football team and forms an unlikely friendship with Danny.

Splintering by Eriann Corrigan

In a series of poems from different perspectives, the events and after-effects of an intruder's violent attack on a family are revealed.

The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier

A high school freshman discovers the devastating consequences of refusing to join in the school's annual fund raising drive and arousing the wrath of the school bullies.

Dreamland by Sarah Dessen

After her older sister runs away, sixteen-year-old Caitlin decides that she needs to make a major change in her own life and begins an abusive relationship with a boy who is mysterious, brilliant, and dangerous.

The Battle of Jericho by Sharon Draper

A high school junior and his cousin suffer the ramifications of joining what seems to be a "reputable" school club.

This is What I Did by Ann Dee Ellis

Bullied because of an incident in his past, eighth-grader Logan is unhappy at his new school and has difficulty relating to others until he meets a quirky girl and a counselor who believe in him.

Quaking by Katheryn Erskine

In a Pennsylvania town where anti-war sentiments are treated with contempt and violence, Matt, a fourteen-year-old girl living with a Quaker family, deals with the demons of her past as she battles bullies of the present.

The Skin I'm in by Sharon Flake

Thirteen-year-old Maleeka, uncomfortable because her skin is extremely dark, meets a new teacher with a birthmark on her face and makes some discoveries about how to love who she is and what she looks like.

Fade to Black by Alex Flinn

An HIV-positive high school student hospitalized after being attacked. The bigot accused of the crime and the only witness, a classmate with Down Syndrome, reveal how the assault has changed their lives as they tell of its aftermath.

Breaking Point by Alex Flinn

Paul, the new boy at an exclusive private school, is desperate to be part of the popular gang so he becomes friends with the charismatic Charlie who tries to push him too far.

Inventing Elliot by Graham Gardner

Elliot, a victim of bullying, invents a calmer, cooler self when he changes schools in the middle of freshman year, but soon attracts the wrong kind of attention from the Guardians who "maintain order" at the new school.

Playing in Traffic by Gail Giles

Shy and unremarkable, seventeen-year-old Matt Lathrop is surprised and flattered to find himself singled out for the sexual attentions of the alluring Skye Colby, until he discovers the evil purpose behind her actions.

The Julian Game by Adele Griffin

In an effort to improve her social status, a new scholarship student at an exclusive girls' school uses a fake online profile to help a popular girl get back at her ex-boyfriend, but the consequences are difficult to handle.

Brutal by Michael Harmon

Forced to leave Los Angeles for life in a quiet town with a father she has never known, rebellious sixteen-year-old Poe Holly rails against a high school system that allows elite students special privileges and tolerates bullying of those who are different.

Things Change by Patrick Jones

Sixteen-year-old Johanna, one of the best students in her class, develops a passionate attachment for troubled seventeen-year-old Paul and finds her plans for the future changing in unexpected ways.

Stained by Jennifer Jacobson

In Weaver Falls, New Hampshire, in 1975, seventeen-year-old Jocelyn looks for answers when her lifelong neighbor and friend, Gabe, turns up missing and she learns that Gabe has been keeping terrible secrets.

Everybody Sees the Ants by A.S. King

Overburdened by his parents' bickering and a bully's attacks, fifteen-year-old Lucky Linderman begins dreaming of being with his grandfather, who went missing during the Vietnam War, but during a visit to Arizona, his aunt and uncle and their beautiful neighbor, Ginny, help him find a new perspective.

You Don't Know Me by David Klass

Fourteen-year-old John creates alternative realities in his mind as he tries to deal with his mother's abusive boyfriend, his crush on a beautiful, but shallow classmate and other problems at school.

Buddha Boy by Kathe Koja.

Justin spends time with Jinsen, the unusual and artistic new student whom the school bullies torment and call Buddha Boy, and ends up making choices that impact Jinsen, himself, and the entire school.

Poison Ivy by Amy Goldman Koss

In a government class three popular girls undergo a mock trial for their ruthless bullying of a classmate.

Rotters by Daniel Kraus

Sixteen-year-old Joey's life takes a very strange turn when his mother's tragic death forces him to move from Chicago to rural Iowa with the father he has never known, and who is the town pariah.

The Astonishing Adventures of Fanboy and Goth Girl by Barry Lyga

Geek Donny keeps a list of jocks and other who torment him, and pours his energy into creating a great graphic novel. Then he encounters Kyra, a Goth Girl, and she helps him change his outlook on everything, including himself.

The Beckoners by Carrie Mac.

When Zoe moves to a new town, she finds the line between victim and tormentor is easily crossed.

Dough Boy by Peter Marino

Overweight, fifteen-year-old Tristan, who lives happily with his divorced mother and her boyfriend Frank, suddenly finds that he must deal with intensified criticism about his weight and other aspects of his life when Frank's popular but troubled, nutrition-obsessed daughter moves in.

When She Was Good by Norma Fox Mazer.

The death of her abusive, manipulative older sister prompts seventeen-year-old Em to remember their unpleasant life together, with their parents and then later on their own.

Huge by Sasha Paley

Wilhelmina and April, both 16, find themselves roommates at a posh fat camp in California. Wil rebels against her parents and vows to not lose a single pound. April, on the other hand, has saved up money to be at the camp and can't wait to get started. Both find they have very little in common until they fall for the same guy.

By the Time You Read This, I'll be Dead by Julie Anne Peters

High school student Daelyn Rice, who's been bullied throughout her school career and has more than once attempted suicide, again makes plans to kill herself, in spite of the persistent attempts of an unusual boy to draw her out.

Burn by Suzanne Phillips

Bullied constantly during his freshman year in high school, Cameron's anger and isolation grows, leading to deadly consequences.

Freak by Marcella Pixley

Twelve-year-old Miriam, poetic, smart, and quirky, is considered a freak by the popular girls at her middle school, and she eventually explodes in response to their bullying, revealing an inner strength she did not know she had.

Bystander by James Preller

Thirteen-year-old Eric discovers there are consequences to not standing by and watching as the bully at his new school hurts people, but although school officials are aware of the problem, Eric may be the one with a solution.

Good Girls by Laura Ruby

Audrey is seen as the quintessential good girl until someone photographs her in a compromising position with her now-ex-boyfriend, Luke, and circulates that photo to every cell phone in the school. Shunned and ashamed, Audrey befriends the 'school slut' and questions the double standards and preconceptions they both face.

Losers by Matthue Roth

Born in Russia and seeing things in a different way than his American-born peers, Jupiter struggles to figure out where he belongs in the social structure at school while dealing with the torment of a bully in an unusual way in this humorous coming-of-age story.

Scrawl by Mark Shulman

When eighth-grade school bully Tod and his friends get caught committing a crime on school property, his penalty--staying after school and writing in a journal under the eye of the school guidance counselor--reveals aspects of himself that he prefers to keep hidden.

Give a Boy a Gun by Todd Strasser

For as long as they can remember, Brendan and Gary have been mercilessly teased and harassed by the jocks, but not anymore. Now only one thing matters to Brendan and Gary: revenge.

Crossing Lines by Paul Volponi

High school senior Adonis struggles to do the right thing when his fellow football players escalate their bullying of a new classmate, Alan, who is transgendered.

Jumped by Rita Williams-Garcia

The lives of Leticia, Dominique, and Trina are irrevocably intertwined through the course of one day in an urban high school after Leticia overhears Dominique's plans to beat up Trina and must decide whether or not to get involved.