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Dear Readers,

Were you bullied at school today? Did you see someone else being bullied? According to a 2005 study by researchers at the University of California at Los Angeles, nearly one half of middle-school students reported being bullied at least once during five school days. Even more kids had seen others being bullied. Bullying is harmful not only to the kids that are bullied, but to every kid in school. Hitting, teasing, name-calling and other forms of bullying create an atmosphere of fear and dread. Every kid wonders, Will I be bullied next?

At TIME For Kids, we want every kid to feel comfortable, safe and confident at school, so everyone can focus on learning and growing. That's why we are so proud to join the Department of Health and Human Services to bring you "Stop Bullying Now!" This is the first of three issues you will receive this year presenting bullying scenarios and showing you ways to cope with them. Share this comic book, and the two that follow, with your family and friends.

Bullying behavior has probably been around for as long as human beings have walked the earth. We hope to give kids the tools they need to react appropriately to bullying situations. Bullying should not be rewarded or tolerated.

Sincerely yours, Martha Pickerill **Managing Editor, TIME For Kids**

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Bullying is a big problem, and it's nothing new. Children's book authors began tackling the subject long before Draco Malfoy taunted Harry Potter. Take a look at these books, and start thinking

about how you can make a difference.

Bluish, by Virginia Hamilton (Scholastic)

Ten-year-old Dreenie gets her fellow classmates to stop teasing Natalie, a girl who is sick with leukemia.

Crash, by Jerry Spinelli (Alfred A. Knopf)

John "Crash" Coogan, a popular school athlete, begins to question the way he treats a small, poor classmate.

Felita, by Nicholasa Mohr (Penguin Putnam Books for Young Readers)

After she is teased and taunted by kids in her new neighborhood, Felita learns to take pride in her Puerto Rican roots.

The Hundred Dresses, by Eleanor Estes (Harcourt Brace)

Wanda's classmates tease her because she wears the same faded dress to school each day. She claims to have 100 dresses at home.

The Revealers, by Doug Wilhelm (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

Tired of the bullying that goes on in their middle school, Elliot, Russell and Catalina start an e-mail forum to air their gripes.

Bad Girls, by Jacqueline Wilson (Delacorte)

Mandy hates looking 8 years old when she's actually 10. Teased by the beautiful school bully, she finds comfort in a new friend.

The Sixth Grade Nickname Game, by Gordon Korman (Hyperion) Best friends Wiley and Jeff are known for the clever nicknames they dream up. But problems arise when the names become more hurtful than clever.











Mom, you've said that "fresh new start" thing the past three times we've moved and I had to start a new school! Why can't I just stay at Science Camp?



I know, I know... we're on a budget... But... I splurged a little 'cause my daughter deserves to look "hip!" Now, get dressed and get ready to WOW them at school!



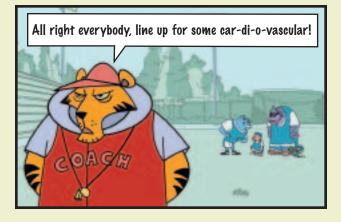






Milton! Milton! Wake up, Dreamy Weemy!





Another fun encounter with my very own torture patrol. How did I get to be so lucky?



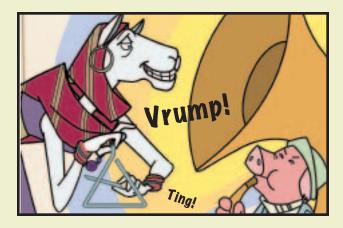
















You can't fool me, my little tip-top-tubist! I can hear your frown blowing out your tuba!



Wrong? Heh-heh... what makes you think anything's wrong?





Oh, that's terrible, Milton! Nobody deserves to be bullied. We'll need to look into that...

In the meantime, you can't let them ruin the things you love. You love the tuba. While I love...the **Triangle!**















Great job, Josh! You trimmed ten seconds off your best time. You'll make the track team this year for sure.







































First Day Blues

K.B. Floofinatta is new in town, and she's had a tough first day. She could use a friend, and someone who can help her get home! Use the directions and the compass rose to draw on the map how K.B. can walk from her school to her house.

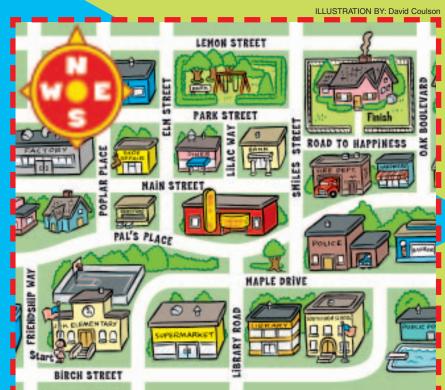
DIRECTIONS

- Walk north on Friendship Way.
- Walk east on Pal's Place.
- Turn north on Smiles Street.
- Walk east on the Road to Happiness.

Bonus: In addition to giving directions, what might you do to make someone who's new to your school feel more at home?

l. an instrument

- 2. a number
- 3. a person's name
- 4. a mean character from a book or movie
- 5. a noun (plural)
- 6. an instrument
- 7. your favorite song
- 8. an exclamation
- 9. your favorite musician
- **10.** a body part
- 11. a noun
- **12.** a verb ending in -ing
- 13. an adjective
- 14. a noun
- 15. a noun



A New Tune

Milton Weems wants to be a rock star. But the school bully has been making Milton feel flat.

Rewrite Milton's story so that it has a happier ending. Fill in each blank space in the box with the kind of word described. Then, put your words into the numbered blanks in the story.

Milton Weems plays the ______1. He practices _____2 hours a day. _____3, who sometimes acts like _____4, used to make fun of Milton. He teased Milton, saying "Only _____5 play that!" Deep down, he felt bad that he didn't know how to play the _____6.

One day, he heard Milton play _____7. "_____!8 You sound like _____9," he exclaimed

Milton cou	ld not believe his	10. His classmate had
never give	n anyone at school a	But here he was
	12 Milton. Why? By he	aring Milton play, he had
learned a _	13 less	son: You can't judge a
	4 by its	15

Lend a Hand

Looking for ways to make your school a nicer place? One person can make a difference! Put a checkmark in the box next to each item that you complete. Then fill in the blank space with another kind thing that you can do.

_
_
_ 1
_

Talk to a student whom you haven't talked to before.

Volunteer to help a new student



Join a club or pursue an activity or sport that you enjoy.

Don't put up with bad behavior. If a friend or fellow classmate is bothering you, tell them you don't like it and walk away.

Stand up for someone who is being taunted or teased.

find his or her classes.

Don't spread gossip. If you hear someone spreading rumors that you know aren't true, tell them so.

Tell an adult if you see a student being bullied.



what you look like or how good you are at school or sports: everybody worries. With this in mind, KidsHealth.org asked 1,004 9- to 13-year-olds throughout the U.S. what they worry about. Here's what concerned them the most.

I. Grades

- **4.** Being liked and fitting in at school
- 5. Being out of shape or overweight
- 3. Problems at home

Looks or appearance

Source: KidsHealth.org/The Nemours Foundation

THINK! What on this list worries you the most? What are some ways that you might be able to ease your mind?