

## **A Boy, His Bear and a Bully**

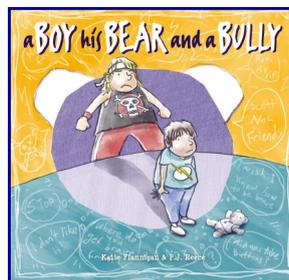
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Publisher: EK Books / Exisle Publishing

ISBN 9781925820898 SCIS: 5368911

\$24.99

*A Boy, his Bear and a Bully* tells the story of the day Scott's bear, Buttons, goes missing and Scott has to be brave and stand up to his bully. It addresses the global issue of bullying in a hopeful, gentle way, opening the conversation for children, carers, and professionals, and providing guidance for anyone who wishes they could be brave.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

### **Themes:**

- Bullying
- Friendship
- Bravery/Courage
- Assertiveness
- Forgiveness

### **Discussions Questions and Activities:**

#### *Before Reading:*

- What is a 'bully'? What are some common behaviours of a bully?
- Look at the cover and read the title, *A Boy, His Bear and a Bully*. What do you see?
- Which one do you think is the bully? How do you know?
- What might be the importance of the bear in the story?

#### *After Reading:*

- What was the story about? What did you like/dislike about it? How did the story make you feel?
- What did you learn about Scott, Duncan and Rosie?
- How were they the same? How were they different?
- How was Buttons significant in the story? Did Scott need Buttons to make him brave?
- Where did Scott's bravery actually come from?
- What are some of the feelings or words the author has used to tell us how Scott felt when he didn't feel brave? For example, 'worried', 'his stomach felt fluttery', 'Scott's heart started thumping.' Can you think of any other ways to describe feeling worried or anxious?
- Write down positive self-thoughts to improve confidence.
- What behaviours made Duncan a bully? Did he ever hit Scott? Can someone still be a bully if they don't hit or kick? Make a list of behaviours that are 'mean' or unfriendly. For example, name calling, destroying or stealing someone's belongings, sticking your tongue out, or physically hurting someone.
- Why do you think Duncan was mean to Scott? What do his clothes tell you about him? Do you think Duncan needed something? What was it, and what did he learn? Do you think Duncan can change? Discuss 'forgiveness'. Do you think you can forgive a bully? Why or why not? Do you think Rosie was a good friend to Scott? In what ways? How did she help stand up to the bully?
- If you saw someone being bullied, is there something you could do? Who would you talk to? What would you do? Is it okay to not do anything at all?

#### *Ripped Paper Collage Activity:*

- 'On Tuesday in Art, Scott saw Duncan rip his painting but he didn't feel brave enough to say.'
  - ◇ Create a colourful mosaic-style collage piece of art by ripping strips of coloured paper and pasting them in a particular shape or picture. Outline the picture onto a sheet of paper with a pencil first. Will the torn strips of paper be long or short? You might like to use a combination of coloured card, magazines, newspaper and other paper materials.