

Masterminds and Wingmen: Helping Our Boys Cope with Schoolyard Power, Locker-Room Tests, Girlfriends and the New Rules of Boy World

Rosalind Wiseman, 2014

Project Prevent and Address Bullying (PPAB)

for students with disabilities

Northern Illinois University | School Psychology Program

COST: Under \$15 on Amazon.com

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Description of content:

This book serves as a guide primarily to parents on how to communicate, interact with and understand boys. It is broken into 19 chapters that each address aspects of boy's lives such as their peer groups, bullying, social networking, parenting styles and the unwritten roles in "Boy World." Rosalind Wiseman provides a glimpse into "Boy World" from boys around the country who helped her write this book. The book is filled with recommendations and warning of what to talk with boys about. It provides some statistics on bullying prevalence, along with personal experiences and tips for addressing bullying to both boys and parents.

Masterminds and Wingmen is designed to guide parents on how and when to have difficult conversations with their sons. This book is recommended for parents who are interested in resources to help their children deal with bullying and looking for ways to understand boys' communication style. It is a quick and interesting read that is written in an amusing informal way, while still providing good information.

Strengths:

- Uses easily understandable language to explain bullying in schools with research and personal experiences.
- Prepares parents to recognize and respond when their son is being bullied, is the bystander or is the bully.
- Teaches SEAL, which is a strategy to calmly and appropriately communicate with another person about an upsetting topic, which is recommended for both parents and boys.
- Explains how to address cyberbullying with boys, their teacher and the school.
- Provides easy-to-use communication techniques to address difficult topics with boys.
- Specifically provides parents tips on how to talk with boys about topics such as sexuality, peer pressure, culturally and linguistically diverse students, LGBTQ+ and students with disabilities.

Limitations:

- Uses fairly up-to-date research on bullying, but uses mostly qualitative research from the sample of boys the author interviewed and adds a lot of her personal views with the research.
- Research on why students engage in bullying or many of the other concepts she covers is her anecdotal reasons or drawn from the sample of boys she worked with.
- Does not provide information directly for teacher or administrators.
- Discusses bullying and children with disabilities but the section contains many of her personal views that may not be helpful or particularly sensitive to families with children with disabilities.

Audience:

- Mainly parents but could also be useful for parents, educators and administrators.



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