

The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander

B. Coloroso, 2004

Project Prevent and Address Bullying (PPAB)

for students with disabilities

BOOK
REVIEW

Northern Illinois University | School Psychology Program

The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander: From preschool to high school: how parents and teachers can help break the cycle of violence.

COST: \$12.46 on Amazon

PUBLISHER: Quill, New York, 2004

Description of content:

The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander impresses the gravity of bullying through compelling prose and persuasive reasoning in a sincere attempt at preventing needless tragedy. Introducing the reader with real-life accounts of victimization turned tragic end, Coloroso maintains as a central message that victimization need not continue if attendance is given to the vicious cycle of violence among victimizers and their victims. Construed as characters in an all-too-real drama, the bully, the victim and the bystander are players whose interactions “set the stage” for potential tragedy. While the interaction between bully and victim is often implicated, the bystanders’ influence is often ignored. Be they compassionate mediators, overt instigators or passive observers, the bystander acts as a key contributor to the cycle of violence. Complete chapters dedicated to defining the roles of bully, bullied and bystander comprises the first half of the book, with the second enriched with information in how to ameliorate – and ultimately eradicate – bully-related victimization. Underlying her mindset that the

cycle of violence is not immutable, Coloroso provides a wealth of information in hopes to break it, including information on how to protect children from becoming bullies, methods for children to cope and react effectively to bullies, and advice on how to evaluate a school’s climate including its antibullying policy.

Strengths:

- Uses engaging prose and non-fictional, compassion-evoking vignettes.
- Provides in-depth analyses of how bullying begins and perseverates, how victims are likely to feel and react, and how bystanders are fully implicated in this relationship.
- Discusses manifestations of bullying.
- Covers types of bullies.

Limitations:

Some of the advice does not seem to have a current empirical basis but is rather informed by opinion.

Audience:

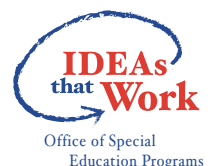
- Parents.



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