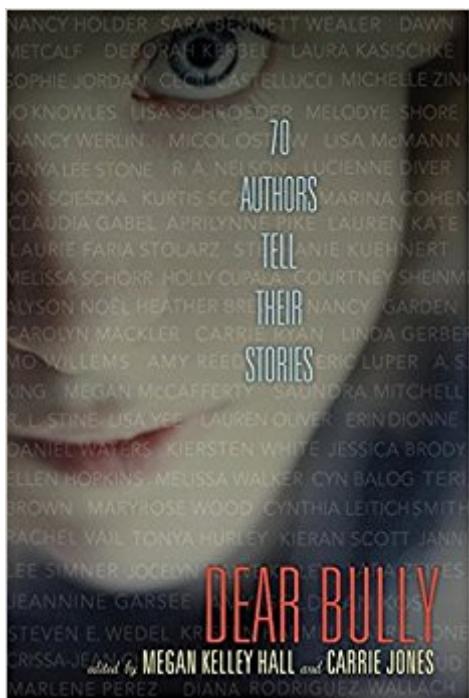


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# Dear Bully: Seventy Authors Tell Their Stories



## **Synopsis**

Today's top authors for teens and young people come together to share their stories about bullying "as bystanders, as victims, and as the bullies themselves" in this moving and deeply personal collection. Lauren Oliver, R. L. Stine, Ellen Hopkins, Carolyn Mackler, Kiersten White, Mo Willems, Jon Scieszka, Lauren Kate, and many more contributed 70 heartfelt and empathetic stories from each corner of the schoolyard. In addition, Dear Bully includes resources for teens, educators, and parents, and suggestions for further reading. Supports the Common Core State Standards

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"This anthology of personal essays provides empathetic and heartfelt stories from each corner of the schoolyard: the bullied, the bystander and the bully himself are all represented. Their words will be a welcome palliative or a wise pre-emptive defense against the trials of adolescent social dynamics." --New York Times"Two of them, both authors of novels for young adults (Megan Kelley Hall and Carrie Jones), have drawn on the power of the written word to focus attention on the problem and offer solace to the bullied." --The Boston Globe"You'll love it if... You know someone (or are someone) who's ever been involved in any type of bullying incident. There's something in it for everyone, on all sides of the spectrum. You'll love it even more if you can find a story that inspires you to help someone else." - Seventeen.com"With authority often turning a blind eye and cyber-bullying rampant, this timely collection is an excellent resource, especially for group discussion, and the appended, annotated list of websites and further reading extends its usefulness." - Booklist"Powerful...All of these stories feel authentic and honest, and

readers will find a story or a person to identify with, to look to for comfort or guidance." School Library Journal

You are not alone. Discover how Lauren Kate transformed the feeling of that one mean girl getting under her skin into her first novel, how Lauren Oliver learned to celebrate ambiguity in her classmates and in herself, and how R.L. Stine turned being the "funny guy" into the best defense against the bullies in his class. Today's top authors for teens come together to share their stories about bullying "as silent observers on the sidelines of high school, as victims, and as perpetrators" in a collection that is moving and self-effacing, but always deeply personal.

What's here is fantastic, but I was hoping for a bit more depth to some of these stories. Just as soon as the authors have a chance to express their pain or regrets, their stories are over. It gives the whole thing a sort of glossy, breezy feel at odds with the subject matter. That said, though, there are some beautifully written elegies both to bullies and the bullied, and though it's not quite plumbing the personal depths I needed for research, it's still a remarkably moving read and highly recommended.

I love the concept of this book, and even after reading it, I still love the idea of it. I also love that a portion of the book sales go to a charity to stop bullying, which I think is so important in today's society. I wanted to really connect to the stories in a deep and emotional way, and unfortunately many of them I didn't. There were a few that really hit home for me, but for the most part, I felt almost bored by the stories. I wanted them to be powerful and moving, but many of them had the same recurring theme of "hang on and it will get better", which frustrated me a bit, because if I was a teen and a victim of bullying, I think hearing that over and over again would frustrate me, because unfortunately it's not really giving them a solution. Now onto the story that really hit home for me and that was *Slivers of Purple Paper* by Cyn Balog, this story hit me in a deep and thought provoking way, I myself had a similar experience in high school, and getting a note from someone that you changed their life in a significant way is a very powerful thing, and one that has stuck with me my entire life. Maybe I didn't connect as much as some people because although I was heavier than most in High School I had a lot of friends, and although I do remember a few instances of being called names or being teased, nothing was as horrible as what many people deal with every day. I never wanted to stay home to avoid a bully, and I never had my books knocked out of my hands or was shoved into a locker. I also don't think I was a bully, I really prided myself on being friends with everyone, from the cool kids to the not-so-cool kids. I'm not tooting my own horn, so please don't

take it that way, but reading this book opened my eyes to being at fault for not standing up or saying things when a bully was attacking people. I'm sure I may have said something to someone occasionally, but I'm also sure that I was a part of gossip or a rumor about someone that I'm sure I might not have seen as hurtful, but was. While, I didn't connect to this book as much as I had hoped I would, I still think this book is very important, maybe because it's been 10 years since high school for me, so wounds are not as fresh as they would be if I had read this book when I was younger, but I'm a firm believer that kindness goes a long way, and I truly believe that if everyone could take a moment and think about their actions and hurtful words, this world would be a much kinder and better place.

I read this book for research purposes and felt really disheartened at just how pervasive bullying is, but it's even worse now that cyberbullying is a real problem for many kids. It brought back memories of my own experiences at school and reinforced just how damaging these experiences are. You do carry the scars for the rest of your life, but the book's ultimate message is that it's possible to move past these things and recognise the bullies for what they are: weak, insecure people who can only feel good about themselves by bringing others down. Victims of bullying and those who stand by and allow it to happen out of fear give far too much power to the aggressors. I think this book will be beneficial to young people experiencing bullying because it will help them to see that bullies are made from the same mould and they can only steal your self-worth if you let them. By recognising bullies for what they truly are they lose their power to hurt. Society as a whole needs to condemn bullying by refusing to look away and by turning the ridicule and humiliation back onto the perpetrators. They will quickly learn that bullying does not pay. School should be a nurturing place where young people feel empowered to take risks and explore different identities, not a place where strict conformity rules and anyone who dares to step out of line or be different is slammed to the ground. It really does say a lot about society that this is the training ground for adulthood, and it's just sad that so many kids have terrible memories of their school years. In this celebrity obsessed culture where looks and designer labels are valued above all else I don't hold out much hope that things will change any time soon, but this is a very good book which explores the issue from all sides. It would be an excellent resource for teachers to use in class.

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