Agnes Parker... Girl in Progress
by Kathleen O’Dell, illustrated by Charise Mericle Harper
(Dial/Penguin, 2004)
A shy sixth-grader deals with friends, old and new, and with a long-time bully. (10-12)

The Berlin Boxing Club
by Robert Sharenow
(HarperTeen/Harper Collins, 2011)
Boxing lessons from the international hero, Max Schmeling, allow Karl to escape bullying, but not the horrors of the Nazi regime as it engulfs his artistic Jewish family. (12-14)

Borderline
by Allan Stratton
(HarperTeen/HarperCollins, 2010)
As Sami, the lone Muslim in his suburban private high school, contends with being bullied, he struggles with his family and his faith when his father is implicated in a terrorist plot. (12-14)

Bystander
by James Preller
(Feiwel & Friends/Macmillan, 2009)
Thirteen-year-old Eric must find his own creative solution to stop a bully’s behavior and maintain his own integrity. (12-14)

Cockroach Cooties
by Laurence Yep
(Hyperion/Disney, 2000)
Bugs, bullies, and sibling rivalry. A charming and humorous story. (8-10)

Colin Fischer
by Ashley Edward Miller and Zack Stentz
(Razorbill/Penguin, 2012)
Colin has Asperger’s syndrome and lacks social skills, but his great investigative talent leads him to defend the school bully as a matter of justice. (12-16)

Dog Sense
by Sneed B. Collard III
(Peachtree, 2005)
Newcomer Luke finds his life complicated by bullies and unresolved anger over the loss of his father. It is relieved by new friendships and a wonderful dog. (9-12)

Doctor Proctor’s Fart Powder
by Jo Nesbo, Illustrated by Mike Lowery, translated by Tara Chace
(Aladdin/S&S, 2010) Two fearless kids join forces with the mysterious Dr. Proctor to combat bullies, make money, and harness a new source of energy in this lighthearted translation from Norwegian. (8-12)

Dreamrider
by Barry Jonsberg
(Knopf/Random House, 2008)
Teenager Michael Terny, bullied at school and at home because of his weight, uses his dreams to get revenge on his enemies. (12-14)

Egghead
by Caroline Pignat
(Red Deer Press, 2008)
What does a ninth-grader do when her nerdy, longtime friend is the victim of sadistic bullies? (11-14)

EllRay Jakes Is Not a Chicken!
by Sally Warner, illustrated by Jamie Harper
(Viking/Penguin, 2011)
Can a small African-American third-grade boy stand up to his bullying classmates in a suburban school? Humorous black-and-white illustrations. (8-10)

Fat Boy Swim
by Catherine Forde
(Delacorte/Random House, 2004)
A new coach teaches a cruelly bullied obese boy to swim, changing his life in many ways. (14+)
Social and Emotional Learning Through Literature
Teasing and Bullying
Books for Children Nine and Older

Francie
by Karen English
(Farrar Straus Giroux/Macmillan, 2007)
In a small Alabama town, a clever, black thirteen-year-old works in white houses and faces prejudice and bullies. (10-13)

Freak
by Marcella Pixley
(Farrar Straus Giroux/Macmillan, 2007)
Scorned by her peers, Miriam responds with strength and courage by coming to the rescue of her worst tormentors. (12-14)

The Green Glass Sea
by Ellen Klages
(Viking/Penguin, 2006)
Amidst secret experiments in Los Alamos during World War II, Suze and Dewey deal with teenage friendship, bullies and tragedy. (11-14)

Here Today
by Ann M. Martin
(Scholastic, 2004)
Dealing with bullying and an increasingly absent mother, Ellie finds her own strengths. (12-14)

*Hereville: How Mirka Got Her Sword
written and illustrated by Barry Deutsch
(Abrams, 2010)
A sharp, funny story of an Orthodox Jewish girl fighting imaginary dragons, real pigs, and bullies in her small town. The Yiddish words are defined on each page. (9-12)

*Hoot
by Carl Hiaasen
(Knopf/Random House, 2005)
A boy tries to fit into a new place that includes a bully, burrowing owls and a junior eco-terrorist. (10-14)

*How the Leopard Got His Claws
by Chinua Achebe with John Iroaganachi, illustrated by Mary GrandPré
(Candlewick, 2011)
Dog, who is bullied, uses violence to overthrow leopard's peaceful rule of the animal kingdom, compelling leopard to become a brutal leader himself. Powerful illustrations. (8-11)

How to Survive Middle School
by Donna Gephart
(Delacorte/Random House, 2010)
A new school and a truly scary bully test old friendships and challenge David, but his on-line videos bring him local fame. (9-12)

The Knife that Killed Me
by Anthony McGowan
(Delacorte/Random House, 2010)
Paul’s nemesis, the school bully, creates a situation in which others are doomed. A powerful story about gang violence in contemporary England. (14+)

Leon and the Champion Chip
by Allen Kurzweil, illustrated by Bret Bertholf
(Greenwillow/HarperCollins, 2005)
Leon’s magic and his friends’ help defeat a bully and save a great teacher. (9-11)

The Loser List
by H. N. Kowitt
(Scholastic, 2011)
After Danny, a talented twelve-year-old comics artist, risks being friends with dangerous school bullies, he finds answers to a difficult situation and discovers more about himself. (8-11)
Social and Emotional Learning Through Literature
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Macaroni Boy
by Katherine Ayres
(Delacorte/Random House, 2004)
Mike Costa deals with a bully and solves a mystery in this story of an Italian-American family in Pittsburgh during the Great Depression. (9-12)

Men of Stone
by Gayle Friesen
(Kids Can, 2000)
Ben’s visiting great-aunt encourages his love of dance and helps him transform his rage at school bullies into positive action. (12-14) Mature Content

Mighty Boy
by Carol Sonenklar
(Orchard/S&S, 1999)
Small and bullied, Howard resorts to fantasy until he has a real chance to prove himself. (8-10)

*The Misfits
by James Howe
Four seventh-graders, friends for years, form a new political party for Student Council, based on no name-calling and respect for all. (10-13)

Neil Armstrong Is My Uncle & Other Lies Muscle Man McGinty Told Me
by Nan Marino
(Roaring Brook/Macmillan, 2009)
In this humorous first-person narrative set on Long Island in 1969, ten-year-old Tammy finds herself bullying the new kid on the block when he wants to become her friend. (8-11)

The Nine Lives of Travis Keating
by Jill MacLean
(Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2008)
After the death of his mother, twelve-year-old Travis must contend with a move, a bully and a new school, but a colony of feral cats helps him. (9-12)

North of Beautiful
by Justina Chen Headley
(Little, Brown/Hachette, 2009)
Terra, beautiful and talented but insecure, struggles to create a life that is not defined by her portwine birthmark and bullying father. (14-17)

Payback
by James Heneghan
(Groundwood, 2007)
When 13-year-old Charlie, new to Vancouver, stands by and watches Benny get bullied, it ends in tragedy. (12-14) Mature Content

*The Present Tense of Prinny Murphy
by Jill MacLean
(Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2010)
Prinny’s small-town Newfoundland life with an alcoholic mother, few friends, and serious reading difficulties becomes even harder when bullies invade. (10-13)

Quaking
by Kathryn Erskine
(Philomel/Penguin, 2007)
Living with Quakers, fourteen-year-old Matt learns to stand up for her beliefs and face her fear of bullies. (12-14) Mature Content

Racing the Past
by Sis Deans
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, 2001)
Running helps an eleven-year-old deal with memories of an abusive father and with the taunts of a bullying classmate. (9-12)

The Revealers
by Doug Wilhelm
(Farrar Straus Giroux/Macmillan, 2008)
Three unpopular seventh-graders find a creative and effective way to address the bullying in their school. (11-13)
Rules to Rock By
by Josh Farrar
(Walker/Bloomsbury, 2010)
Despite parental neglect, moving to a new school, and bullies, Annabelle, a bass player, makes friends and creates a band. (9-12)

Smile
by Raina Telgemeier
(Graphix/Scholastic, 2010)
When sixth-grader Raina faces extensive dental work after an accident, the school bullies increase their taunts--until she finds her confidence... and herself. A graphic novel. (8-12)

*Stitches
by Glen Huser
(Groundwood, 2003)
Because Travis sews and designs puppets, he faces classmates' violent teasing. He copes, with the help of friends, encouraging teachers and the supportive aunt with whom he lives. (12-15)

Summer Soldiers
by Susan Hart Lindquist
(Delacorte/Random House, 2000)
During World War I, Joe has to deal with his father's enlistment and the cruelty of the town bullies. (11-14)

Surrender
by Sonya Hartnett
(Candlewick, 2006)
A lonely boy with harsh parents, uncaring neighbors and bullying classmates is saved by a mysterious companion. (14+)

Guys Read: Thriller
edited by Jon Scieszka, illustrated by Brett Helquist
(Walden Pond Press/HarperCollins, 2011)
Encounter ghosts, monsters, bullies, criminals, and the boys who confront them in these ten stories. Evocative black-and-white illustrations. (9-13)

Time Snatchers
by Richard Ungar
(G.P. Putnam’s Sons/Penguin, 2012)
Bullied and cruelly treated, Caleb begins to question his role in the time travel missions. Set in New Beijing, formerly New York City, 2061. (12-14)

Vive la Paris
by Esmé Raji Codell
(Hyperion/Disney, 2006)
From her piano teacher, Paris learns about music--and about the Holocaust, about life, death, tragedy and bullies. (10-12)

Warp Speed
by Lisa Yee
(Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic, 2011)
Running from the bullies who fought him, seventh-grader Marley becomes a champion runner. (9-12)

*What My Girlfriend Doesn’t Know
by Sonya Sones
(Simon & Schuster, 2007)
Fourteen-year-old Robin and his girlfriend, Sophie, confront the class bullies as well as the changes in their budding relationship. In free-verse. (12-15)

When Zachary Beaver Came to Town
by Kimberly Willis Holt
(Henry Holt/Macmillan, 1999)
Toby and his best friend Cal spend a 1960s Southern summer trying to understand the fattest boy they’ve ever seen--and themselves. (9-12)