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The Recess Queen



Synopsis

A fresh & original twist on the common issue of bullying. Kids will relate, & parents & teachers will appreciate the story's deft handling of conflict resolution (which happens w/o adult intervention) Mean Jean was Recess Queen and nobody said any different. Nobody swung until Mean Jean swung. Nobody kicked until Mean Jean kicked. Nobody bounced until Mean Jean bounced. If kids ever crossed her, she'd push 'em and smooch 'em lollapaloosh 'em, hammer 'em, slammer 'em kitz and kajammer 'em. Until a new kid came to school! With her irrepressible spirit, the new girl dethrones the reigning recess bully by becoming her friend in this infectious playground romp.

Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #771 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship](#) #60 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction](#) #220 in [Books > Reference](#)

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

Customer Reviews

Oh, would that all bullying problems could be solved so easily! Mean Jean is the reigning Recess Queen, pushing and smooching, hammering and slammering the other kids whenever they cross her. And then one day a puny new girl shows up on the playground and catches Mean Jean completely off-guard. Not only is little Katie Sue not the least bit intimidated by the bully, she actually asks her to jump rope with her. In no time flat, Jean and Katie Sue are best buddies, and the playground is safe for all again. Sure, it's simplistic, but there's a strong element of truth in this energetic rhyming story by Alexis O'Neill (Loud Emily). Bullies are people, too, and sometimes

nothing is quite so effective as ingenuous disarmament. Big, bold, funny acrylic and collage illustrations by Laura Huliska-Beith (*The Book of Bad Ideas*) bounce right along with the text. (Ages 5 to 8) --Emilie Coulter

A schoolyard bully is enlightened by the new kid in class in this lively story about the power of kindness and friendship. "Mean Jean was Recess Queen/ and nobody said any different," the tale begins. Each day at recess, Mean Jean blasts through the playground and her cowering classmates so that she can kick, swing and bounce before anyone else. No one dare cross her path: "She'd push 'em and smoosh 'em, lollapaloosh 'em." But when tiny Katie Sue, a new student, arrives, all bets are off. Unaware of the playground hierarchy, the new girl enthusiastically kicks, swings and bounces before the Recess Queen gets the chance. Her role usurped, Mean Jean moves toward a meltdown, until Katie Sue makes her an offer she finds difficult to refuse: an invitation to play together. O'Neill's (*Loud Emily*) text brims with fun-to-say phrases that fit a rollicking rhythm, and her assessment of recess dynamics feels authentic. Huliska-Beith's (*The Book of Bad Ideas*) memorable Jean busts out of the pages, all sneer, bluster and freckles. Swirling perspectives in the gouache-and-collage artwork provide a sense of movement and largesse. And humorous details, such as steam coming from Mean Jean's ears, or her bouncing another child like a ball, playfully convey the underlying drama of the situation. Ages 3-7. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

My 6 year old daughter read this book at school and she identified so much with the story that she asked me to buy a copy for home. She has been experiencing a lot of difficulty with the other kids at school and this book helped her identify some of her feelings about it. We are using it to discuss things that happen at school and I am going to have her write her own version of what happened, using this book as a guide.

We love this book and its important message. The illustrations are vibrant and punchy and it's always a fun read. Katie Sue is a great role model and a strong female character. She artfully disarms Mean Jean just by being her friendly, natural, brave self.

Purchased this to read to my daughter who had been struggling with a recess bully of her own. It was a great read and a great opportunity for us to talk and make a plan to be the bigger person.

Although the kids like this one ... it is not in their top 10. Nice illustrations

Yes! I love this book. This is a great lesson on bullying and making friends!

This book is adorable!! It has great illustrations and is a great book for primary students. This book teaches about bullying and how to be a good friend at recess.

I am happy to be asked to review "The Recess Queen". I bought it for a coworkers 5 year old daughter who was being bullied at school. Their mother read it to her and her younger sister. They loved it. They asked to have read over and over. It didn't take too many times before her kindergartner "got it" and made the connection between mean Jean and the individual who was bullying her. I recommended this book to my daughter who leads anti-bullying programs in the local schools thru a mental health agency. The illustrations were so appealing and the rhyming words. Just a wonderful book.

Loved the story.

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