

Bully on the Bus

By Kathryn Apel

Discussion questions

- 1) The first poem on page 1 introduces readers to DJ (the girl bullying Leroy) and to Leroy's feelings of helplessness. What is it about the poem that helps you know how Leroy is feeling?
- 2) How does Leroy's sister, Ruby, try to help him? Why isn't she more successful?
- 3) Leroy hasn't asked for help to deal with the bullying situation. Why do you think he doesn't want to tell?
- 4) What are some of the things Leroy does to try to stop DJ from bullying him?
- 5) What role does the bus driver play in the book?
- 6) When Ruby and Leroy tell their parents about the bullying situation, how do they respond?
- 7) Mrs. Wilson gives Leroy some good advice about how to stop the bullying behavior, and together they make a list of ideas that could help. What are the ideas? Do you think it helped that Leroy was involved in the decision making process?
- 8) How does reading *The Big Bad Book of Fairy Tales* help Leroy? If you could combine characters from different fairy tales to help prevent bullying, which super character would you create? What would their strengths be?
- 9) Explore and discuss the theme of courage. How does Leroy find the courage to talk about his problem and then do something about it?
- 10) What else could Leroy have done if confronting DJ didn't stop the bullying?
- 11) Discuss how Leroy's relationships with others helped him with this situation:
 - His friends
 - His teachers at school
 - His sister, Ruby
 - His mother and father
- 12) Once DJ's behavior changes and she is nice to Leroy, how does he respond? Is that a good way to start a new friendship?

*Discussion questions developed by PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center,
with help from University of Queensland Press and Kane Miller Books.*