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.