



Bully Bait

Michael Fry

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Nick is the shortest seventh-grader in the history of the world (he's pretty sure), doesn't fit in with any groups or clubs (who needs 'em?), and spends more time inside than outside his locker (they're roomier than you'd think).

Things only get worse when a well-intentioned guidance counselor forces Nick to join the school's lamest club-along with fellow misfits Molly and Karl-in her quest to cure all three of their "peer allergies." What starts off as a reluctant band of hopeless oddballs morphs into an effective and empowered team ready to face whatever middle school throws at them, including bullies, awkward romance, zany adults, and a brave new world of surprising friendships.

Renowned cartoonist Michael Fry brings an unforgettable cast of characters to life in an illustrated novel brimming with honesty, humor, and heart.

Bully Bait Details

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Author : Michael Fry

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From Reader Review Bully Bait for online ebook

Ben D. says

Nick's, Molly's, and Karl's goal is to prove the whole middle school that they're not lame, odd or nothing. Molly is 12 years old and the tallest girl in the school. Nick is small and weak and gets bullied everyday. An Karl is hopeless because he thinks too much. The three met when Nick formed a club called the odd squad. The book keeps the reader entertained by the odd squad's by the groups what they do, say, and plan and I would recommend this book to readers that like this type of humor and types of characters who overcome obstacles in serious.

Audrey says

Well, this is going to be my recommendation to the young lady obsessed with the "Terrible Two" series by Barnett. It is funny but deals with serious topics (divorce, abandonment, grief, bullying). However, it doesn't beat you over the head with them. It also has great illustrations.

Betsy says

Hilarious in a very middle school way, The Odd Squad is the latest comic/illustrated novel (a la Wimpy Kid or Dork Diaries) to hit shelves; I must say, it's a heap site better than those other two in my opinion. In fact, this is sort of Lunch Lady meets Wimpy Kid: a motley and unlikely collection of 3 misfits learns how to beat the bully with some behind the scenes help from the school janitor (there's more to the janitor than meets the eye!). But it's more than just a lesson in standing up for yourself. Along the way, the three learn how to be friends, how to look past someone's outer exterior to what might be going on inside, and how to be themselves--quirks and all. And there are definitely some quirks. The main character, Nick, reminds me of the main dude in Wimpy Kid, but I like Nick SO much better. He's a jerk at times, but he learns from it and recovers. This will have your 5th, 6th, and 7th graders laughing and nodding along, especially if they're in a school big enough to have lockers! I viewed the ARC, so the artwork wasn't final--but what I saw added to the text tremendously and was well done.

Noah Deluca says

It was a good book but it could be a little more challenging

Ms. Yingling says

Nick is tired of being shoved into his locker by Roy, who relentlessly bullies everyone at Emily Dickinson Middle School, but know that as the shortest 7th grader EVER, he is unlikely to break free of Roy's tyranny.

When the school psychologist decides that Nick would be safer if he had a peer group, Nick doesn't protest too much when he gets put on the Safety Patrol with the lone member of said patrol, Warren, as well as Molly, a tall girl whose shoelaces are frequently tied together. With the help of hippie dude custodian, Mr. Dupree, (whose philosophy in warding off bullies is "bring the crazy", a philosophy which I have heard extolled by professionals in the anti-bullying movement!), they decide to bring Roy down by finding the one thing that means the most to him and seizing it. This plot takes some time, but the group perseveres, learning not only about what makes bullies tick, but about how they can each survive middle school.

Strengths: Have to admit here-- I wanted to loathe this intensely. Bullying, kids being put in lockers, Unrealistic school shenanigans AND a Wimpy Kid-style notebook novel? Everything I hate. And yet, I rather enjoyed this. The drawings reminded me strongly of Bloom County, and I really liked the characters. Nick is willing to control his own destiny, and even Karl, with his strange habit of losing his pants (Really, in 15 years in the middle school, I've only heard of one kid losing his pants, and that was because someone pulled down the kid's gym shorts. Punches were exchanged. It was ugly.), had a certain likeability. The conflict between Roy and Nick was fairly realistically portrayed. So why do I feel like giving this to my library patrons is roughly akin to giving my children cookies to eat for breakfast?

Weaknesses: The only person to have ever been put into a locker in my middle school is Surly Teen Boy, and even then it was because he asked someone to put him in one of the oversized ones. And yet this is still a fear that 6th graders have. So no, I don't believe that Nick gets put in lockers that frequently.

Sue Ellen says

I got this book through the Goodreads giveaway. It couldn't have come at a better time. Both of my kids are having "bully issues" and this book taught them to stand up for themselves and also to learn a little bit about why the bully is a bully. It wasn't boring, because it had them cracking up while reading it. My son was able to identify with the main character (who ended up being kind of a hero, yay!). He also especially loved the illustrations on each page. This is definitely something I would have picked out and purchased from a store.

Louise Bendall says

A laugh-out-loud story of life in middle school and how awful it can seem at times. Nicks is picked on because he's short, Molly is picked on because she's tall, and Karl is clueless. At the suggestion of their guidance teacher (okay, she makes it mandatory), the three of them form a Safety Patrol to keep kids safe from bullies. It's an absurdly nuanced story of nerds winning, and bullies being the ones who need your pity. Fantastic illustrations throughout add to the story!

Brian says

This was a very cute, quick read, that deals with the topic of bullying. Three outcasts in a public junior high are being bullied, so the principal puts them together in the form of a safety team. The book has nice artwork, but is clearly a Diary of a Wimpy Kid knockoff.

Jada Coburn says

I thought it was a pretty good book. a little bit weird but it made me laugh most of the time because the protagonist is always getting made fun of but its funny most of the time.

Sue Bellows says

This book deals sensitively and humorously with the complex problem of bullying. Like Roald Dahl, Michael Fry has written beautifully about the lovable oddball who is able to rise above a dastardly situation. Here we have three protagonists, either too short or too tall or just too nerdy to fit in anywhere. But together they make a Mean Machine for combatting the school Bully. Weaving throughout the story is the school janitor, a delightful merging of genius and wackiness, who is able to help them in an unexpected and surprising way. This is a super read for middle-schoolers and the parents who want to understand them better.

Christina Dudley says

My eleven-year-old son gave this book its rating. According to him it's about a group of nerdy middle-schoolers who take on the school bully. (Classic!) He liked all the pictures and laughed a lot while reading it and says he'll probably read it again. Not sure he could give higher praise!

THE ODD SQUAD falls in that DIARY OF A WIMPY KID and THE DORK DIARIES genre: text and lots of hand-drawn pictures.

Halley Ortiz says

I enjoyed this book. Yes, there are some common themes here, but as a middle school teacher, what impressed me is that Fry aptly illustrates that the line sometimes is a little more blurry than just bully vs. bully-ee. Just like in real life, not every good guy is always good and vice versa, and not every adult is a saint or an enemy. The characters are real and human and nuanced in a way that previous incarnations have not been. What also distinguishes this book from others is how well the adults are formed. Plus, it's really, really funny. And smart.

Amy says

This was genuinely funny with a solid message. I would think that kids would just eat this up! James Patterson has written books for Middle School trying for humor but Michael Fry has him beat by a mile. Three loners at school are being bullied and suffering from peer allergies. The counselor decides they would benefit by being in a group and assigns all of them to Safety Patrol. The janitor, Mr. Dupree, claims to be ex-

secret service and has agreed to tutor them in the finer skills of surveillance and disguise. This is one wise, hippy dippy janitor. Meemaw is the grandma that the hero, short but fierce Nick, is living with, making the third generation of the 3-generational home.

Adventures ensue. The bully is found out and reformed. The Safety Patrol are no longer peer allergic and along the way is hilarious fun.

Dianne says

Three school 'misfits' join forces and work to overcome bullying at their school. Told in a quirky and fun way, complete with illustrations, Michael Fry has done a fantastic job of "putting the lipstick on the bullying pig," and showing that its still what it is, an unfortunate and sometimes unavoidable curse of school life.

Told from Nick's point of view, we are privy to his inner thoughts as he goes through each day, each event at an age when things really get tough for kids, middle school! You will love the illustrations that coincide with Nick's thoughts! You will feel for the kids that are the objects of bullying.

To truly see how good this book was, I shared reading it with one of my grandchildren: The Official Word from Mya: "I like it!" When asked what she liked: "Nick was funny. Bullying is bad."

This copy was provided by NetGalley and Disney-Hyperion in exchange for an honest review.

Francesco Marciuliano says

As writer for the comic "Over the Hedge" Michael Fry has a great knack for creating odd ball characters who join forces to deal with their strange surroundings. So it makes perfect sense he'd write about one of the most bizarre environments on earth--middle school--in a very funny, endearing illustrated book about unlikely friendships, peer pressure, bravery, the contortions a body must take when shoved inside a locker, and the daily horror that is the school hallway. Highly recommend it.
