



We Want You to Know

Kids Talk About Bullying

Deborah Ellis

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The bullying had been going on for a very long time, I was out on the playground, and this kid started hitting me again. I went into the principal's office and I said, "I've had enough. I'm calling my mom, and I'm calling the police." I was just so sick of it. He had punched me one too many times.

—Matt, 12

Through her association with a community anti-bullying campaign launched in Haldimand, Norfolk, and neighbouring communities in Southern Ontario, children's author Deborah Ellis asked students

from the age of nine to nineteen to talk about their experiences with bullying. The results are thoughtful, candid, and often harrowing accounts of "business as usual" in and around today's schools. The kids in this book raise questions about the way parents, teachers, and school administrators cope with bullies. They talk about which methods have helped and which ones, even with the best of intentions, have failed to protect them. And some kids reveal how they have been able to overcome their fear and anger to become strong advocates for the rights of others.

This is a book for reading and sharing. Each interview is followed by questions that will encourage open discussion about the nature of bullying and the ways in which individuals and schools could deal more effectively with bullies and their victims. And additional comments from international students reveal how much kids the world over have in common in the way they experience and deal with bullies.

These kids have something to say. It's time we listened.

Deborah Ellis is the internationally acclaimed author of more than twenty books for children, including the *Breadwinner* trilogy; *The Heaven Shop*; *Lunch With Lenin*; *Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees*; and *Our Stories, Our Songs: African Children Talk About AIDS*. A peace activist and humanitarian, Deborah has won many national and international awards for her books, including the Governor General's Award, the Vicky Metcalf Award, Sweden's Peter Pan Prize, the Jane Addams Children's Book Award, and the Children's Africana Book Award Honor Book for Older Readers. Deborah lives in Simcoe, Ontario.

Bullying is not inevitable. It doesn't have to be a normal part of childhood. The more we talk with each other, share our stories, and listen—particularly to those whose voices aren't often heard—the closer we move toward a just society. — Deborah Ellis

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