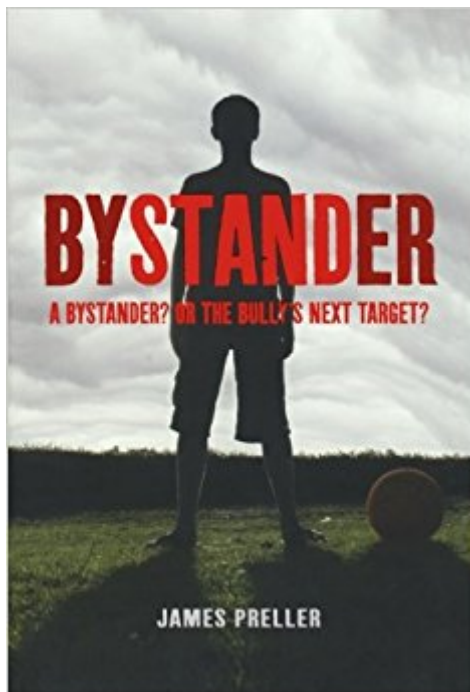


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# Bystander



## Synopsis

Eric is the new kid in seventh grade. Griffin wants to be his friend. When you're new in town, it's hard to know who to hang out with and who to avoid. Griffin seems cool, confident, and popular. But something isn't right about Griffin. He always seems to be in the middle of bad things. And if Griffin doesn't like you, you'd better watch your back. There might be a target on it. As Eric gets drawn deeper into Griffin's dark world, he begins to see the truth about Griffin: He's a liar, a bully, a thief. Eric wants to break away, do the right thing. But in one shocking moment, he goes from being a bystander . . . to the bully's next victim. This title has Common Core connections.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Square Fish; Reprint edition (May 10, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 031254796X

ISBN-13: 978-0312547967

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.6 x 0.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 97 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #43,951 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Bullying

## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 6 • Eric Hayes has moved from Ohio to Long Island, NY, with his mother and younger brother. His schizophrenic father left long ago. Eric soon meets Griffin Connelly, a handsome kid with natural leadership, lots of charisma, and a real mean streak. While Griffin is the perfect bully, David Hallenback is the perfect victim: beaten down and willing to do anything to get Griffin's approval. At first, Eric is a bystander, not participating in the bullying but not doing anything to stop it. However, several events move him out of this passive role: Griffin steals from him and reveals Eric's confidences about his father; adults at school address bullying; and Mary, a girl he likes, takes a stand against it. Eric realizes that his silence makes him complicit and speaks out, only to become Griffin's next victim. Preller has perfectly nailed the middle school milieu, and his characters are well developed with authentic voices. The novel has a parablelike quality, steeped in a moral lesson, yet not ploddingly didactic. The action moves quickly, keeping readers engaged. The ending is realistic: there's no strong resolution, no punishment or

forgiveness. Focusing on the large majority of young people who stand by mutely and therefore complicitly, this must-read book is a great discussion starter that pairs well with a Holocaust unit. — Connie Tyrrell Burns, Mahoney Middle School, South Portland, ME Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

— “Preller has perfectly nailed the middle school milieu, and his characters are well developed with authentic voices. The novel has a parablelike quality, steeped in a moral lesson, yet not ploddingly didactic. The action moves quickly, keeping readers engaged. The ending is realistic: there’s no strong resolution, no punishment or forgiveness. Focusing on the large majority of young people who stand by mutely and therefore complicitly, this must-read book is a great discussion starter that pairs well with a Holocaust unit. — School Library Journal, starred review — “Bullying is a topic that never lacks for interest, and here Preller concentrates on the kids who try to ignore or accommodate a bully to keep themselves safe. For Eric to do the right thing is neither easy nor what he first wants to do, and the way he finds support among his classmates is shown in logical and believable small steps. Eminently discussable as a middle-school read-aloud, [with] appeal across gender lines. — Kirkus Reviews — “Preller displays a keen awareness of the complicated and often-conflicting instincts to fit in, find friends, and do the right thing. Although there are no pat answers, the message (that a bystander is hardly better than an instigator) is clear, and Preller’s well-shaped characters, strong writing, and realistic treatment of middle-school life deliver it cleanly. — Booklist — “Plenty of kids will see themselves in these pages, making for painful, if important, reading. — Publishers Weekly — “An easy pick for middle school classroom and school libraries, this book is a worthy addition to collections focused on bullying and larger public libraries, especially those with an active younger teen population. — VOYA — “If Judy Blume could write a book about Little League, about its players’ deepest fears and secret dreams, it might come out something like this. — Publishers Weekly, starred review on Six-Innings — “Dishing up a rare example of a character-driven tale that is also suspenseful and exciting, [Preller] chronicles a magnificent championship game between two Little League teams that is as much about the players as the plays. — Booklist, starred review on Six-Innings — “Following the play-by-play builds suspense and brings the reader right into the action and the special world of baseball and the people who love it. — Kirkus Reviews on Six-Innings — “A tale of baseball, friendship, growth, and coming to terms with hardships, this fast read will grasp any reader who enjoys sports. — School Library Journal on Six-Innings — “This is a

book whose emotional pull creeps up on you, pitch by pitch....Like the boys on the field and in the press box, readers will feel this is a game to remember.Â• Shelf Awareness on Six-Innings

Bystander should be a must read for all middle school students. As a middle school teacher, I really thought this book hit home with its bullying theme and the way students can go from being an "in" to an "out" student in a matter of minutes. I was disappointed with the way the book ended, as it was lackluster like the author didn't have any ideas how to end it.

This novel is an eye-opening book for educators and students alike. Although the format is simplistic, the message is not: Bystanding is Bullying. This book forces readers to reflect upon their own experiences, and think about their actions in the future. Students in middle school would benefit from reading this novel because the main character is a young boy who struggles with relatable issues including peer pressure, friendship, and relocating. Overall, I would give this book five stars because it is both educational and exciting. I would highly recommend this book for future educators and their students.

I bought this for my grandson to read it's the only mandatory book on his summer reading list. He enjoyed reading Bystander.

This book was an amazing book for me to read. I am a kid going into seventh grade myself and this book tells me about bullying and other social issues that are happening in the world right now. I would recommend this book for all people. And I give this rating just because this book was an amazing book.

I liked the book. I would recommend it to my non friend (Haley). I rated this book 5 stars because I understand it and it is interesting;)

This book is an interesting novel about a normal kid who moves into a new town and tries to fit in. He goes from the bully to the bystander to the victim in stuff but the ending didn't do the book Amy justice at all. [SPOILERS] Why does Griff go from bullying him one day to getting bored of it the next? It didn't seem like something he would do. Why couldn't he just learn a lesson or something or keep going and get caught? Why is there such an abrupt and lackluster ending to an otherwise

decent novel?

This book is amazing it helped me realize that I was a bully at time, the victim, and yes even the bystander I have change my reaction to my mom and dad the people around me and now I will use my size my strength to fight for those who can't fight for themselves

Amazing book! Great for students and is a good read for those looking for an entertaining novel. Also great has a variety of genres. Teaches about how bad bullies and influences not to be one

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