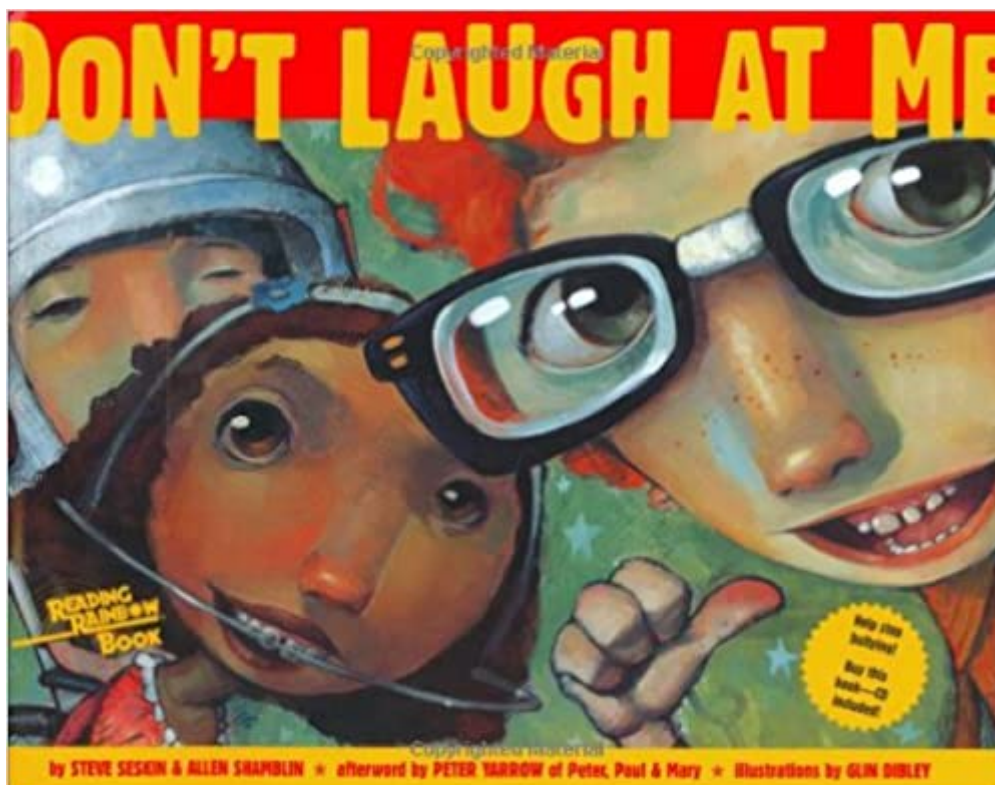


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# Don't Laugh At Me (Reading Rainbow)



## Synopsis

Do you wear glasses? Ever been picked last for the team? Afraid you'll be called on in class? Don't laugh at me. Don't call me names. Have you laughed at someone else for the same reasons? Someone you thought was geeky or slow--someone different from you. Don't get your pleasure from my pain. For anyone who's ever been bullied--or been a bully themselves--it's time to change your tune. This is not a book for whiners, but a new language that will give you the words you need to take charge and stop the cycle of teasing. Filled with inspiration and celebration, Don't Laugh at Me is the anthem for a new bully-free world. Read it, sing it, and cheer! A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to the Operation Respect "Don't Laugh at Me" Project.

## Book Information

Series: Reading Rainbow

Hardcover: 32 pages

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Language: English

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Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 64 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #212,804 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #21 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Tolerance #307 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies #432 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Social Skills

Age Range: 3 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 2

## Customer Reviews

Songwriters Seskin and Shamblin laudably sound a call for tolerance in this picture-book adaptation of a heartfelt tune that inspired, and has become the anthem for, a rapidly expanding educational program within an organization called Operation Respect (founded by Yarrow, of Peter, Paul & Mary). The text/lyrics focus on the ridicule suffered by a boy with glasses, a girl who wears braces

and a wheelchair-bound child, among others, ultimately uniting the voices of the bullied in the verse "Don't laugh at me./ Don't call me names./ Don't get your pleasure from my pain./ In God's eyes we're all the same." Though the book's worthy message will likely strike a universal chord, young readers may be confused by the overly figurative sentiment "I'm fat, I'm thin,/ I'm short, I'm tall,/ I'm deaf, I'm blind./ Hey, aren't we all?" In earth-toned mixed-media artwork that blends watercolor, acrylics, wallpaper and other materials, Dibley (Tub Boo Boo) exaggerates the distinguishing features of his stylized characters, further bringing home the book's theme. His compositions use muted colors and crowd scenes to set off the ostracized subject; the boy "chosen last" on the playground becomes a shadowy outline under a basketball hoop as smiling kids crowd the foreground; a kid "slower than the others in my class" peers out of a sea of raised hands. A CD recording of the country-flavored song is included. Ages 6-12. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 3-5-Starting as a song encouraging kindness to others, the tune has now become the anthem of the "Don't Laugh at Me Program" founded by Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul & Mary. However, what works beautifully in a song is quite different in a book and should be shared with care. It is easy to discuss not laughing at difference if the differences aren't in your classroom. It is easier to sing about being fat, thin, short, etc., but breezing through this book without discussion would be foolish and the discussion could be volatile. Dibley's mixed-media artwork exaggerates the features of a boy with glasses and big ears; a girl with braces complete with headgear and a wisp of a body; a dark, slouching figure with no face "who's always chosen last

I used this for my 5th class when I heard the song and decided it went well with our monthly character trait of Tolerance. The children were genuinely moved by the words and artwork. The honesty and reality in this book are a valuable lesson. The book has been on display for several weeks and is still being read everyday. The book on video and song at our assembly were so touching and memorable, many people left the room singing it and my students still quote parts of the book when difficulties arise in our classroom. This book is an EXCELLENT teaching tool for parents, teachers and religious leaders.

The VERY BEST anti-bullying book ever written for elementary school, and gets to adults, too, A must have in EVERY classroom. Comes with CD song so the story becomes a classroom sing-a-long, too! I highly recommend this book to teachers and parents everywhere! (former

teacher),

This is an amazing book that I think all elementary age children should have read to them!

This is one fun book and should be of a little help to kids that feel alienated. And, who hasn't felt that way at least once in their lives? The illustrations liven up each page and keep you interested all the way through the book. Very pleasurable!

book is recommended for age 6+. I teach 3 year olds and I know they will benefit from the catch phrase "Don't Laugh at me, Don't call me names." If that is all they get out of it I have succeeded. It is unfortunate but I have seen "bullying" at this age, when they don't want to hold someones hand, when they run away from someone on the playground, or when they just give someone that look. Everyone, especially PARENTS need to be aware of how their thoughts and prejudices become the child's reality.

What a wonderful story to teach about bullying!

The book was quickly shipped. It was also signed by the author Steve Seskin.

I found this to be a bit didactic; I prefer narrative literature with a subtler message. I also noticed that the first time I read this to a class of second-graders, they all burst out laughing at the exaggerated features of the cartoon-like illustrations. Not quite what I had intended. However, I've come to realize that lots of kids find it calming to discuss things frankly and don't feel bored because they aren't being made to guess the moral of the story. This book has become famous school-wide and is always in circulation among kids in grades 1 - 3. So if kids like to read it, surely at least some will absorb the admirable message, and we may be one more step ahead on the road to universal kindness. I give it 5 stars for sincerity and runaway popularity. Be aware that the lyrics contain the phrase, "In God's eyes we're all the same..." No complaints here, but if that will be problematic in your setting, pick another anti-teasing title.

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