

THE TERRIBLE TAUNTING



CURRICULUM AND ACTIVITIES GUIDE

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Standards: Mighty League is for grade levels: 3-6, but suitable for a wide range of ages

RL.5.2 Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text

RL 5.3: Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).

RL.5.7 Analyze how visual and multimedia elements contribute to the meaning, tone, or beauty of a text.

SL.5.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher led) with diverse partners on grade 5 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

- Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation and other information known about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.
- Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions and carry out assigned roles.
- Pose and respond to specific questions by making comments that contribute to the discussion and elaborate on the remarks of others.

STANDARD TOPICS

- Autism Spectrum
- Aspergers Syndrome
- Empathy
- Bullying
- Diversity

OBJECTIVES

- Teaching what is considered bullying or teasing.
- Conflict resolution: Help children understand when it is important to tell an adult, when to solve the problem independently and when to walk away.
- Teaching empathy.
- Teaching social skills.
- Teaching about diversity.

KEY TERMS/CONCEPTS

- What is Aspergers Syndrome? Autism?
- Conflict Resolution
- Empathy
- Diversity
- What should a student do if they think that they or a classmate is being bullied?

Geek Club Books tells the stories of autism through apps, digital media, curriculum and webisodes. The creative nonprofit is focused on innovative autism awareness education. A team of autistic adults is involved in everything they produce. Discover more at geekclubbooks.com.

BACKGROUND INFO

The Mighty League series of stories is based on Jonathan Murphy's real life experiences growing up on the autism spectrum. Being diagnosed with Aspergers Syndrome hasn't stopped him from living a meaningful life. Today he is a professional voice actor and his character voices are in video games, apps, audio stories and even a major California theme park.

Jonathan's life has been quite the adventure—from being the boy that paced in the corner...from being a social outcast, bullied and reclusive to commanding a stage, making people laugh with him (and not at him), finding friends who like him for him, and earning the respect of professionals in his industry. The Mighty League series is Geek Club Books unique, respectful

and, hopefully, entertaining way to share how someone on the spectrum overcomes obstacles, triumphs over social anxieties, and thrives, quirks and all!



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Before reading the Mighty League story, have a class discussion about diversity. What does diversity mean?
- Have you ever felt different from your peers?
- How would you treat a new student from a foreign country who doesn't speak English? A student who is deaf? A student in a wheelchair? A student who thinks differently?
- Jman wakes up and pretends to be a superhero. Have you ever pretended to be a super hero? Why?
- Has something ever scared you? How do you deal with your fears?
- Are there some foods that you are sensitive to?
- How does it feel when someone else hogs the conversation? Do you ever do that?
- How do you feel about rules? Is it important to follow every single rule all the time? How do you tell the difference?
- Is it ever hard for you to focus in class? Why or why not?
- Has anyone ever bullied you? How did it feel?
- What should you do if you see someone getting bullied?
- What makes a good friend?
- Do you have special needs or know someone who has special needs? What is that like?



ACTIVITIES

Who Am I?: Have the students do the *Who Am I?* worksheet. Talk about what makes them unique. What qualities do they like about themselves? What special interests do they have?

Comic Bubbles Conversations: Have the students do the *Comic Bubbles Conversations* worksheet. Write a conversation between two people. Each person can only say as much as will fit into the comic bubble and each person must take turns talking.

Sensory Overload: Choose five or six students to be the “active students” the rest of the students are the “observers”. Give each student an action to do: jump, spin, touch toes, sit down and stand up, pat their heads or wave their hands. Don’t let the “observers” know which child is doing each action. Tell the “active students” to all start their action at the count of three. Allow the “observers” to watch for a moment or two. Then talk about whether it was easy or difficult to observe all the “active students” at the same time. How did it feel? Was anyone overwhelmed? Then discuss how sounds can be even more distracting for people who are sensitive to sounds or distractions.



What is a Bully?: First discuss the difference between bullying and unkind words. Unkind words can be ignored, but constant teasing should be addressed. Have the kids write about different times when they felt teased or bullied. Make a meter of ways to respond to bullying or teasing. For example, the “1” on their meter might be to ignore it. A “10” might be to get as much help as possible. Printable *What is a Bully* worksheet is at the end of this document.

When Should I Tell an Adult?: Have the students do the *When Should I Tell an Adult?* worksheet at the end of this document.

Role Playing: Have the students act out different situations where someone is teasing or bullying. What is the difference between friendly teasing and bullying? How would they react if it was happening to them? How would they react if it was happening to someone else?

All About Friendship: Have the students do the All About Friendship work sheet. Printable *All About Friendship* work sheet is at the end of this document.

WRITING PROMPTS

- What does it mean to have a diverse community?
- Write about a time when you felt bullied or you teased someone else.
- Have you ever felt overwhelmed? When did you feel that way and why?
- J Man is a super hero in his own mind. Write your own super hero story.
- Do you have special needs? Does someone you know have special needs? Write about it.
- What makes you special? What unique talents do you possess?
- Do you have a best friend? What do you like about each other?

RESOURCES

Geek Club Books: <http://geekclubbooks.com/>

Social Skills Activities from Mosswood Connections: <http://mosswoodconnections.com/>

If I Need Help, 501c3: <https://ifineedhelp.org/>

National Bullying Prevention Center:
<http://www.pacer.org/bullying/resources/>

Autism Support Network:
<http://www.autismsupportnetwork.com/>

Florida Frenz Gives Advice About Friendship:
<http://bit.ly/florida-frenz>

Asperkids: <http://asperkids.com/>

Born This Way Foundation:
<https://bornthisway.foundation/>

VOCABULARY

Asperger's Syndrome: aspərgərz ,sindrōm/ noun:

A developmental disorder related to autism and characterized by higher than average intellectual ability coupled with delayed or impaired social skills and repetitive patterns of interest and activities.

Chaos: Ka-os/ noun

A state of utter confusion or disorder; a total lack of organization order.

Conversation: kon-ver-sey-shuh n/ noun

An informal interchange of thoughts, information, etc., by spoken words; oral communication between persons; talk.

Misdeed: mis-deed/ noun

An immoral or wicked deed.

Bully: boo l-ee/ noun

A blustering, quarrelsome, overbearing person who badgers and intimidates smaller or weaker people.

Self-discipline: self-dis-uh-plin/ noun

Discipline and training of oneself, usually for improvement. Being able to stay in control of oneself.

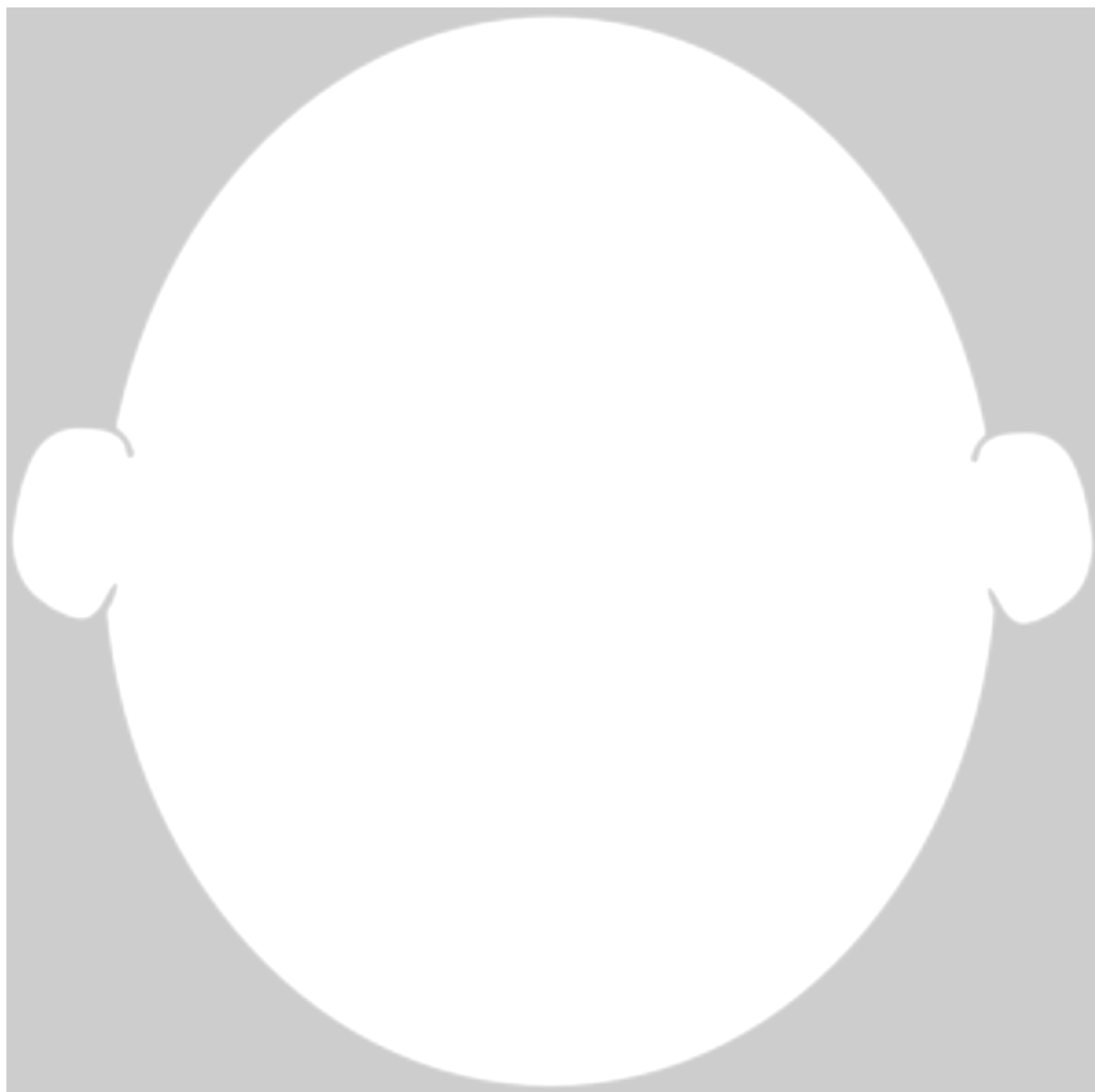
Concentrate: kon-suh n-treyt/ verb

To bring or draw to a common center or point of union; converge; direct toward one point; focus.



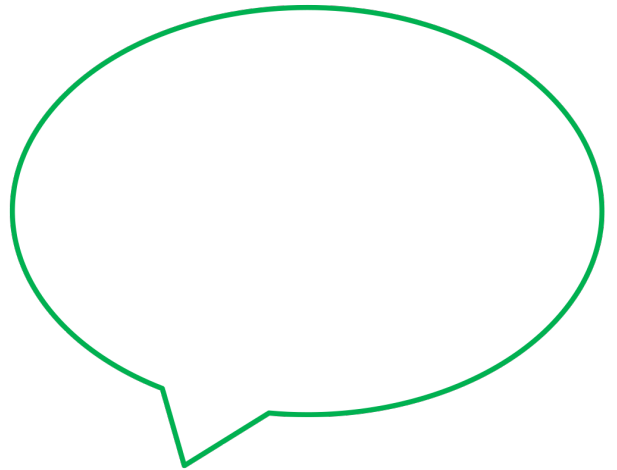
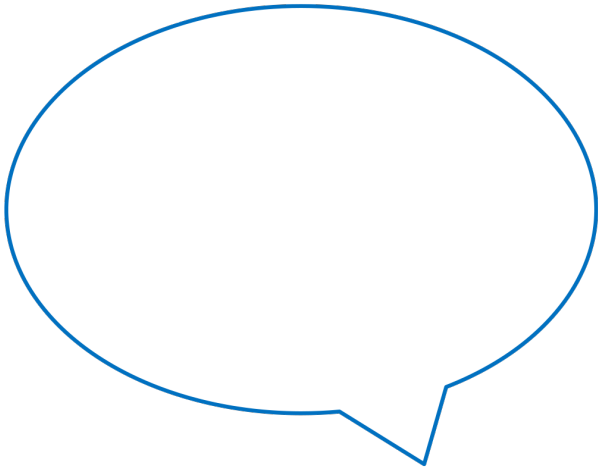
WHO AM I?

Draw or write words in the head that describe who you are, what interests you and who you want to be.



Comic Bubbles Conversations

Write a pretend conversation with a friend. You can only write as many words as will fit in the comic bubble. Make sure that you stay on topic and respond to the conversation.



What is a Bully and What Should I Do About It?

Fill in the left column with different types of people you meet. Fill in the right column with ideas on what to do when you meet that person. Start at the bottom with an example of a nice or neutral person. The next level up should be the next level of people you may meet until you get to the top.

| | |
|---|---|
| Help! This person is the meanest bully I have ever met! | Get an adult! Get help fast! |
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| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| This person seems calm and friendly. | Wave hello, smile at them or say, "Hi!" |

When Should I Tell an Adult?

Match the situation with whether you should tell an adult, ignore the situation, talk it out or walk away. Draw a line from the situation to the correct response.

The other students are wiggling and being noisy while standing in line.

Another student keeps making annoying noises on the playground.

You see another student taking someone's lunch.

Another student pushes you off the play structure on purpose.

Your friend says something mean to you.

Your friend runs away at recess and hurts your feelings.

Someone accidentally bumps into you. They say sorry and dash away.

You see another student is not paying attention to the teacher.

Ignore what the other student is doing and focus on what you should

Just walk away.

Talk about the problem and work out a solution.

Find an adult and get help!

ALL ABOUT FRIENDSHIP

What qualities do you look for in a friend? List at least three traits you like in a friend.

What qualities do you have that make you a good friend? List at least three different traits.

What should you do if you are having problems with a bully?

What can you do to solve a problem with a friend?



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