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## Bullying comic strip

Hello Comics Royals! This week, Kurt Kolka, comics kingdom guest blogger and author of *Bullying Is No Laughing Matter*, takes an introspective look at bullying on comic book pages and chooses his collection of comics about bullying. When I was a kid, I was bullied quite frequently. Reading comics in newspapers and comics was my escape from the fear I felt. In today's *Take It From the Tinkersons*, we see Tillman Tinkerson having another snappy comeback for his bully, Kyle, and being able to get away from the situation. Tillman also exudes confidence as he confronts his bully, another advantage. Studies of bullying have shown that children who do not show their fear and can make jokes about observing a bully, proving that they are not injured, can often leave as Tillman does. Bullies like to see the fear and pain of their victims. When this is taken away, there is no longer a reward in bullying. *Take It From The Tinkersons*, March 17, 2015 you read comics for a while, then you know, like me, that bullying has been an essential part of some comics for years. The relationship between Dagwood and Mr. Dithers in *Blondie* immediately comes to mind. We've seen him play with hilarity many times. Another strip we've seen bullying behavior is in *Beetle Bailey*. There were endless stripes that could have been used within the bullied book, but this one stood out. Because? Because it shows the difference between comic characters and the real world. The comic character returned to normal the next day; real people can't. Physical wounds will heal over time, but emotional wounds will not so easily. *Beetle Bailey*, November 28, 2012 This work of art donated by Ron Ferdinand inspired an entire school! Miller Elementary School in southeast Michigan used the idea of a Fence of Friends to create an entire anti-bullying assembly. By projecting the comic *Dennis the Menace* published on our website on a wall, they made sure that the children created fence panels with their names. Each board touched another of which they were friends (even teachers), creating a friendship fence. Until the end of November 2011, young people across the country can share ideas on how to prevent bullying by making their own comics through stop bullying: Speak Up Comic Challenge. Created by Cartoon Network and Bitstrips, the campaign offers children a creative and new way to add their voice to the national discussion about bullying. Students play a powerful role in stopping bullying. Bitstrips is a unique and creative way to give young people a strong and effective voice, said Alice Cahn, vice president of responsibility of Cartoon Network. We are pleased to work with Bitstrips and Bitstrips for Schools to extend the reach of our Stop Bullying: Speak Up campaign. Accessible in [StopBullyingComics.com](#), [StopBullyingComics.com](#), [Stop Bullying: Speak Up Comic Challenge](#) allows anyone to create good-looking comics without having to draw. Children start by turning into a cartoon avatar, and then become part of a comic book where it's up to them to solve a bullying problem: what should they do if they see someone being bullied? What if they're a victim, or even a bully? Children finish the comic using their own ideas and words and can share them in an online gallery. Throughout the discussion about bullying in recent years, children's prospects have generally been underrepresented, bitstrips CEO Jacob Blackstock said. By introducing the topic through comics, a format that children love, we hope to really get them to talk and think critically about what they can do to reduce bullying in school and in their social life. We think that this initiative could be the beginning of something very great in this regard. After the month of bullying prevention, all the best entries will be published in a downloadable comic anthology. Schools looking for a creative way to introduce bullying as a topic of discussion can also participate in the Stop Bullying: Speak Up Comic Challenge. Teachers can choose from eight bullying prevention activities and assign them to students through a secure virtual classroom. Finished comics can be shared by teachers in their classroom gallery, where they can be read by other students, parents, and the entire community. Education World® Copyright © 2011 Education World There is nothing funny about bullying, but appealing to students' comic sensibilities could help open discussions on this serious topic. This is the idea behind stop bullying: speak up comic challenge. In October, students and teachers can join a national dialogue on bullying prevention that will take place through the immersive means of comics. Bitstrips for Schools, a popular online platform for using comics in education, is joining the Cartoon Network to launch the comedy challenge during bullying prevention month. This gives students a creative way to talk about what they can do to respond to bullying, explains Shahan Panth, co-founder of Bitstrips. It's about using their voice, their ideas to solve situations. Every week during the campaign, Bitstrips will release a new comic book template that sets a different situation, such as cyberbullying or mobile bullying. Students start by using online drawing tools to create their own avatar, which is released into the model as the star of the strip. The students then respond to the situation by finishing the comic with dialogues, characters or special effects. Different activities could throw student avatars into the role of passerby, victim, or even bully facing the consequences. There are no sign-up fees for the challenge, which offers two ways to get involved. Involved. can face weekly challenges individually. Teachers can also set up free class accounts. Finished comics can be published in an online gallery, offering students a wide audience for their work. At the end of the challenge, the best strips will be compiled into a downloadable anthology. This will be a bullying prevention comic created by children across the country, a great resource for teachers and librarians, says Panth, who hopes the anthology will become an annual publication. The Stop Bullying: Speak Up Comic Challenge is one of several ways students and teachers can take part in Bullying Prevention Month, a PACER Center project. The Comic Challenge is more likely to appeal to students in grades 3-8, Panth predicts, and has attracted the support of the American Association of School Administrators. Why comics? Since Bitstrips was launched in 2008 as an online comic book creator, the Toronto-based company has seen an explosion of interest from the education community. More than 100,000 teachers have opened accounts with Bitstrips for Schools, which provides educators with a safe site for classroom use. The students created six million original comics, with others published every day. Ontario, Canada, has been a hotbed of creativity, with almost all comic book schools producing province. Teachers use the site for a variety of projects, but most focus on building literacy. Comics offer a way to focus students' attention on elements such as dialogue, internal monologue (thought bubbles), character development, and setting. This makes sense for Bitstrips co-founder Jacob Blackstock. Comics are a powerful language for communicating, he says. Blackstock is an experienced cartoonist who created Bitstrips out of his frustration. I got frustrated with the time it took me to move from an idea to a fully executed comic book. Before I could finish drawing one, he says, I was already at my next idea. Tech ConnectionTechnology has allowed it to accelerate the creative process. He realized that he could draw a character or prop once, add it to an online library, and then drag, drop, and adapt these elements to quickly produce new panels. He worked with a small team -- including Panth, a high school classmate -- to develop this idea into an online platform and launch a business. They thought Bitstrips would appeal mainly to other adult cartoonists, but there wasn't much to do for teachers to find their way to the site. In response to this new they launched Bitstrips for Schools as a separate site and have been busy since they expanded online libraries of graphics, props, and special effects. Teachers' suggestions have expanded the library with new images, such as laboratory equipment required by science teachers. Students can also upload their original artwork to be incorporated into the comics. Social Social allow peer feedback and teacher feedback, further supporting the writing process. Teachers can also create student avatar class sets, creating a humorous alternative to school images. Easy-to-use tools allow students who may not be experienced artists to express themselves through the medium of comics. They can quickly communicate ideas, making their thinking visible. In a typical class, only a couple of students might be able to draw very well, Blackstock says, recalling his experience as a child he could draw. This uniforms the playing field. The creativity of Other UsesTeacher is also unleashed by the creation of comics. One teacher, for example, used comics to get students to describe their study habits. The comedic setting - and the possibility of a rich follow-up conversation - was the difference between how students should study and how they actually do it. (See a sample of comic book reflections and teachers in this blog post by tech coach Brenda Sherry.) Blackstock is not surprised that many students who are introduced to comics during classes return to the site after school to create and share new strips. Once you're blocked from making comics, it can definitely be habit-forming. When I was their age, Blackstock admits, I was kicked out of class for drawing on my desk.

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