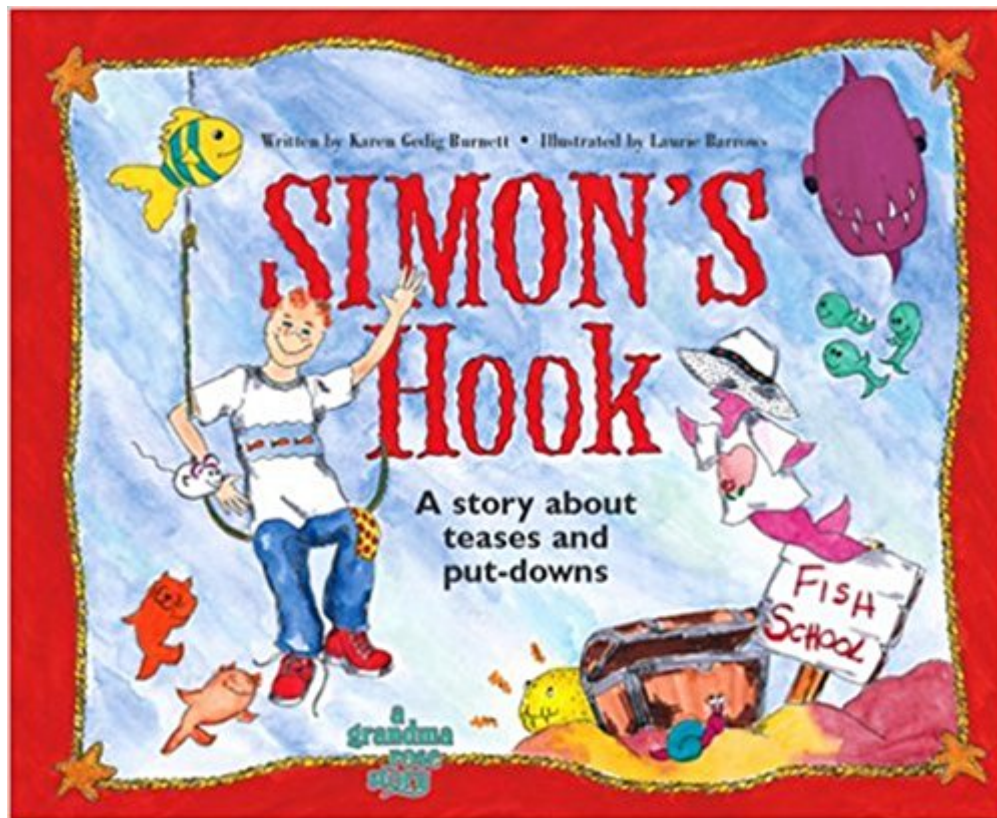




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# Simon's Hook; A Story About Teases And Put-downs



## Synopsis

Simon is having a bad day; a bad hair day. First his sister gives him a strange hair cut, then his friends tease him. Simon doesn't know what to do. Lucky for him he runs into Grandma Rose. After listening to his sorrowful story she helps him learn an important life lesson; how to handle teases and put-downs. By comparing teases to fishing hooks she tells him a tale of how fish learned not to bite. With fanciful characters such as Harmony Hippy Fish, Freddie Fang, Max the Mouse Fish and more, Simon learns that he, too, can swim free from the teasing hooks that people toss his way.

--This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

## Book Information

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Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 93 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #55,858 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #64 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Fish #292 in Books > Children's Books > Sports & Outdoors #3412 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction

Age Range: 6 and up

Grade Level: 1 and up

## Customer Reviews

Grade 1-4-Simon experiences a "bad hair day" after his sister cuts out portions of his hair to remove some chewing gum. When his friends tease him, the boy rushes home in tears. He finds consolation when his Grandmother Rose tells him "a fish story" that illustrates the pitfalls of providing an easy target for teasing by "biting the hook." Simon's self-esteem returns, and he rejoins his friends and withstands their comments by following his grandmother's sage advice. Burnett concludes with useful information for adults about teasing and instructions for using the book. The "sticks and stones" theme is patently obvious, and is presented in a didactic and patronizing manner that glosses over the real emotional turmoil children experience. The grandmother's wisdom and Simon's transparent gullibility also contribute to the condescension. The full-color illustrations are of

average quality. Notwithstanding the positive theme of the book, the story is too contrived to make it plausible for bibliotherapy. Paul Kelsey, East Baton Rouge Parish Public Library, LA Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

All children experience the taunts and teasings of other children. Karen Burnett is an elementary school counselor with more than 20 years experience and has written a wonderful picturebook story (charmingly illustrated by Laurie Barrows) that offers an intriguing, entertaining, and proven technique that kids can employ when feeling hurt or confused as a result of teasing by friends, peers or siblings. *Simon's Hook: A Story About Teases and Put-Downs* helps children to recognize they have choices and through the use of a fishing analogy, Burnett shows them how to "swim free" of feeling helpless, trapped, stuck, or powerless and able only to hit back or run away. *Simon's Hook* is recommended reading for boys and girls ages 6 and up, and a "must" for all school and public library collections. -- Midwest Book Review, October 1999 *Simon's Hook* has been selected to receive The National Parenting Center's Seal of Approval. -- The National Parenting Center November 1999

I love this book because it is extremely practical in teaching appropriate and effective responses to teasing. It does not confuse teasing and bullying which is refreshing. If you are helping a child with a true bullying situation I would probably not use this book alone since it does not discuss getting help from adults. Instead it focuses on things that every child can do in response to teasing including ignoring, distracting, agreeing, laughing, or staying away. I would warn readers who are sensitive about word choice in children's books to preview the book prior to sharing with a younger child as it does contain some realistic examples of teasing that include words like fatso, stupid, loser, etc. I only wish that the illustrations of human faces were a bit better. Overall I would highly recommend this book to anyone helping a child learning to deal with teasing.

I loved the approach of this book. So much of the teaching in our local schools is that bullying is wrong, but not much is being taught about what to do if it happens to you. Many of our children now get bent out of shape if someone calls them a name. They know they shouldn't be bullied, and they run to the teacher . . . "Billy called me a name!" They're feelings are all bent out of shape. This book teaches that they shouldn't let others ruin their day and gives real, practical examples of how they can diffuse the situation and maybe even get the bully on their side. This book puts the victim in control! Told in a fun way -- a great way to talk to your child about bullying.

The book is well written, and the suggestions on the double illustrated pages are excellent. However, there is too much information introduced in a book that should be separated into chapters. This would give children time to practice the excellent techniques suggested in the book. It should also be made clear to both children and adults that bullying may continue even with these suggestions, and everyone should keep looking for solutions and help.

I bought this book because my son was having issues with kids teasing him. I was worried that it might be to "baby" for him since he is in the third grade. Nothing could be further from the truth. We loved the book. We talked about ways that we could turn what the kids at school had been saying to him into the fish world. We also worked on turning the solutions into our world situations. The new phrase at our house is "I didn't bite". When he reports back at the end of the day he will always include "and I didn't bite today when...". I even use it with my middle school daughter and her love life. The phrase "jerking you around" has new meaning as we picture her as a fish being pulled around all over the waters. I highly recommend this book for kids (big and small).

The message of not 'biting' at put-downs is valuable, and this may be just the book that helps someone understand the concept, but I didn't care for it. In order for a child to really understand the message it may be useful to read this book with them, but I found it difficult to read aloud because it doesn't flow like a typical storybook. Some kids may love it but I found it sort of irritating that there are so many thought bubbles and little signs all over each page. I also don't think that the sophistication level of the book's humour matches the developmental level of children who will truly understand the fishing metaphor. Not on my must-have list as a school counsellor, but maybe it will meet your needs.

This book is a great illustration to teach children how to handle teases and put downs. I have used this with my elementary students when I teach them social skills. It helps them see the idea of how teases and put downs can "hook" them and that they have a choose to eat the hook or swim away. It is also a great teaching tool that can be used in the classroom, at home, with friends and family by simply saying "Are you a caught fish or a free fish?" I highly recommend this book for counselors, teachers or parents who have students who struggle with other children teasing them (whether mean or not mean) and empowering the student to choose his or her outcome. I added a fun craft. I copied a fish and added the poem in the middle. I used a straw as the fishing pole and threaded a

piece of yarn to make the fishing pole. After the child has colored the fish, I cut it out and staple the fish and pole together. Something easy to help them remember the story.

This book is great for adults and kids

Helps give kids and parents a common language and my kids loved it when I tried to "hook" them after we had read the book. Then, they even practiced on each other without being mean. Doesn't always work like a charm if they are all riled up, but it's a great book and I bought copies for two friends who I knew would appreciate it.

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