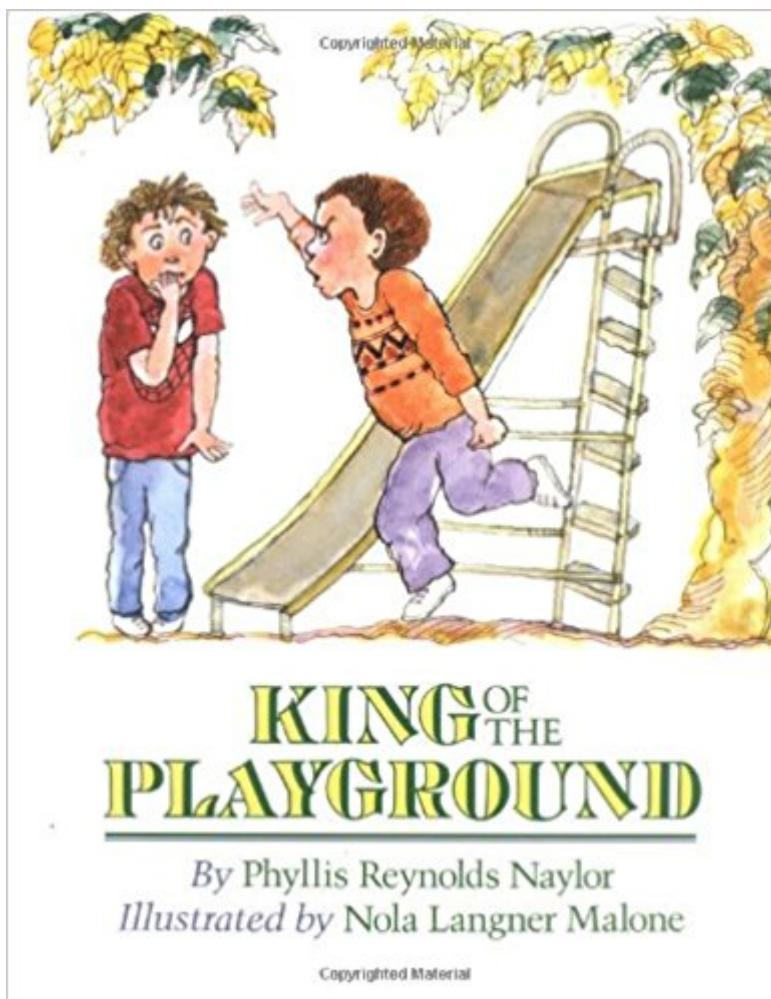


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# King Of The Playground



## **Synopsis**

Kevin loves to go to the playground, but not when Sammy is there. And Sammy, who boasts that he is King of the Playground, is there most of the time. If he catches Kevin on the swings or the slide or the monkey bars, Sammy says, he will do awful, terrible things to him. Kevin tells his dad what Sammy says and they talk it over. And then one day Kevin gets his courage up and goes to the playground even though Sammy says he can't come in. Even though Sammy tells him to go home. Even though Sammy says he will put Kevin in a cage with bears in it. Will Kevin stay, or will he go home? How will he deal with Sammy?

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 310L (What's this?)

Paperback: 32 pages

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (January 1, 1994)

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Product Dimensions: 8 x 0.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #117,387 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #26 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Dysfunctional Relationships #65 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Abuse #220 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

PreSchool-Grade 2-- Sammy, self-proclaimed ``King of the Playground," will not let Kevin play on the swings, slide, or monkey bars. Fortunately, Kevin's father, who believes that words are stronger than fists, subtly suggests ways to best the bully, and a friendship between the two boys begins. There are several admirable touches here: the relationship between son and father (shown making soup, washing the car, digging in the garden--no mother is mentioned); the typical reactions of the boys to one another; and the father's humor and gentleness. Malone's pictures are reminiscent of Lillian Hoban's illustrations for Miriam Cohen's ``First Grade" stories (Greenwillow), with their

subdued colors, rumpled T-shirts, and heads just a little too large for the bodies. Kevin, the creatures of his imagination, and Sammy could belong to the same class. A warm, comforting story with a smart solution to a childhood problem. --Suzanne Wolfe, formerly at Shady Side Academy Junior School, PittsburghCopyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Each day Kevin presents himself at the playground, only to be ousted by Sammy's threats ("...he'll dig a hole so deep I'll never get out"); each day Dad mildly points out that Sammy's fierce notions are impractical ("And what would you be doing while Sammy was tying you up? Just sitting there?"), helping Kevin to realize that he's not helpless ("...while Sammy was nailing one door shut, we could walk out the other"). Finally, Kevin gets up his courage and counters Sammy's threats with an imaginative--and logical--verbal exchange. Then, to Sammy's ultimate outlandish threat, Kevin says simply, "Try it"--and the two settle down to play in the sandbox together. Naylor brings wit and good sense to this model exercise in problem solving and conflict resolution. Malone's characters are suitably lively and expressive; her imaginary scenes are differentiated by slightly muted colors. Entertaining and salutory. (Picture book. 4-8) -- Copyright ©1991, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book really held my kids' attention all the way through, and the lesson was terrific. Since I have all boys, I have to give lots of talks about them treating each other kindly and with respect, and to stop fighting so much (all that testosterone drives me crazy at times!). Books like these really help show them how to treat others, but also how to handle a situation if mom/dad are not around.

King of the Playground, by Phyllis R Naylor, hits the nail on the head for younger children (grades K-3) who are bullied on the playground at recess time. This happens far too often, and far to few students report. And, if they do, teachers don't always have the right words to assist them. Using this as a read-aloud, early in the school year promotes just the right conversations that you can revisit throughout the year when necessary. I lent mine to a colleague, never got it back, so I purchased a second one! Naylor helped lots of children in my classes over the years.

I like the way the father helps his son figure out that the other boy is probably all bluster. I also like that the son is able to use those ideas to come up with his own solution. I was a little bothered that such young kids are walking to and playing at the local playground with no parents anywhere. Best

for young kids as one example of how you might stand up for yourself. The optimistic view that you can make friends with a "bully" is okay for little kids, since young bullies are probably more socially unskilled than mean, but I don't think this is very realistic for older kids.

I bought the book because my 4-year-old son had been on the receiving end of some of the unfriendly behaviors that are the basis of the book. My son loves the book. Aside from the fact that he gets the author's premise (reasoning rather than reacting), he just genuinely enjoys it. He laughs out loud at some of the situations in the book. It didn't trigger the meaningful discussion I'd hoped we'd have about bullies (unbridled parental optimism on my part there!), but it's made for a lot of fun bedtime reads.

I think that it teaches you that you shouldn't be a bully. It was a good book, and I liked reading it.

It is important to me that my son learn how to problem solve and handle things on his own. This book shows how the boy's father enabled him to think through the bully's threats and realize that they are not realistic. The boy then figures out how to handle the bully on his own. King of the Playground is great reading and learning.

Bought this for my 5.5 year old. Unengaging...there are definitely better books on bullying. The concept in the book is positive.

Very good book My 8 & 6 year old both enjoyed the story

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