

Letter to the Reader from Nancy Wilcox Richards



Dear Boys and Girls,

How to Tame a Bully was the first chapter book I wrote. Before that, I wrote three Farmer Joe picture books. And while I loved writing about Farmer Joe, I wanted to try something a little different. *How to Tame a Bully* was the result of that.

You might think that when I was a little kid I was bullied. Not so. I had a great childhood! I always had tons of friends to play with. I lived in a safe neighbourhood. And even though my family didn't have much money, life was amazing – one big outdoor adventure after another!

When I was about your age, there was a rumour about a boy (let's call him Bud) who was a bully. At the time, Bud seemed a lot older than me and I was forever on the lookout for him. In many ways he reminds me of Bethany, the bully in *How to Tame a Bully*. There were a lot of untrue stories and rumours about Bethany. Perhaps one or two of them were true, but certainly not all of them. However, over time these stories grew until Bethany had a bad reputation as 'the biggest bully at Bayfield Elementary. I think that's how it was with Bud. The stories about him grew and grew. I'm guessing that most of them were not true. But as a little kid, I didn't want to find out!

Nowadays there is a lot of discussion about bullying. You have probably been learning about strategies to deal with bullying. I hope that *How to Tame a Bully* offers you some insight into solving these tough issues. And I hope that you enjoy meeting some of my favourite characters: Lauren, Claire, and yes, even Bethany!

Happy Reading,

Nancy Wilcox Richards

