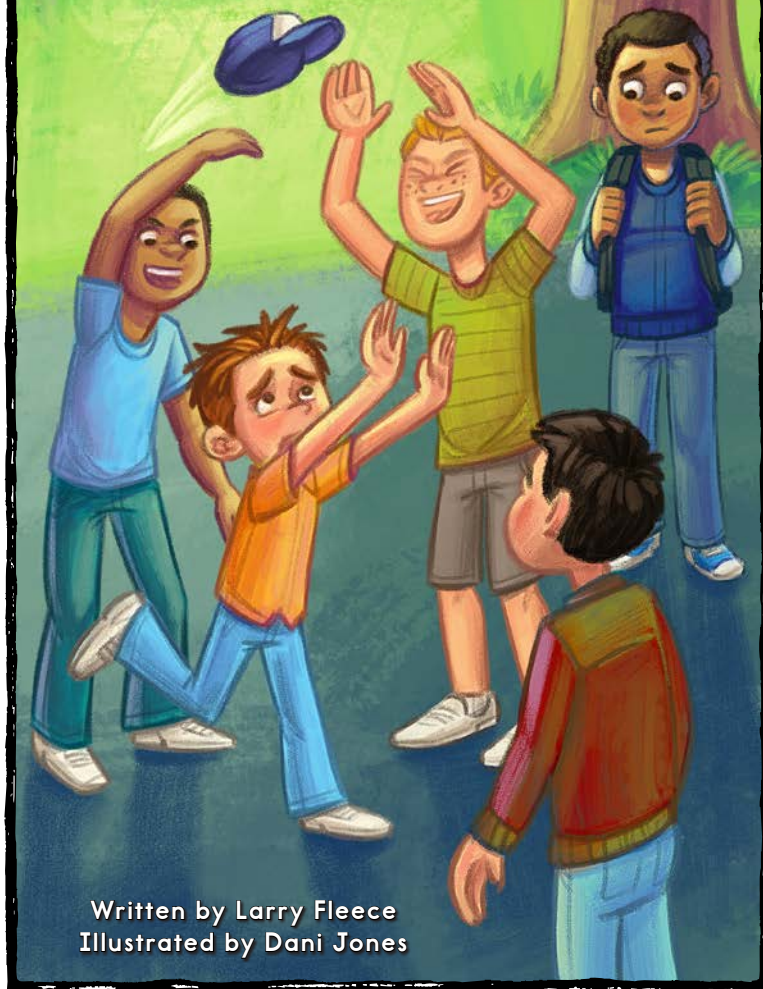


LEVELED BOOK • K

Different



Written by Larry Fleece
Illustrated by Dani Jones

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Different



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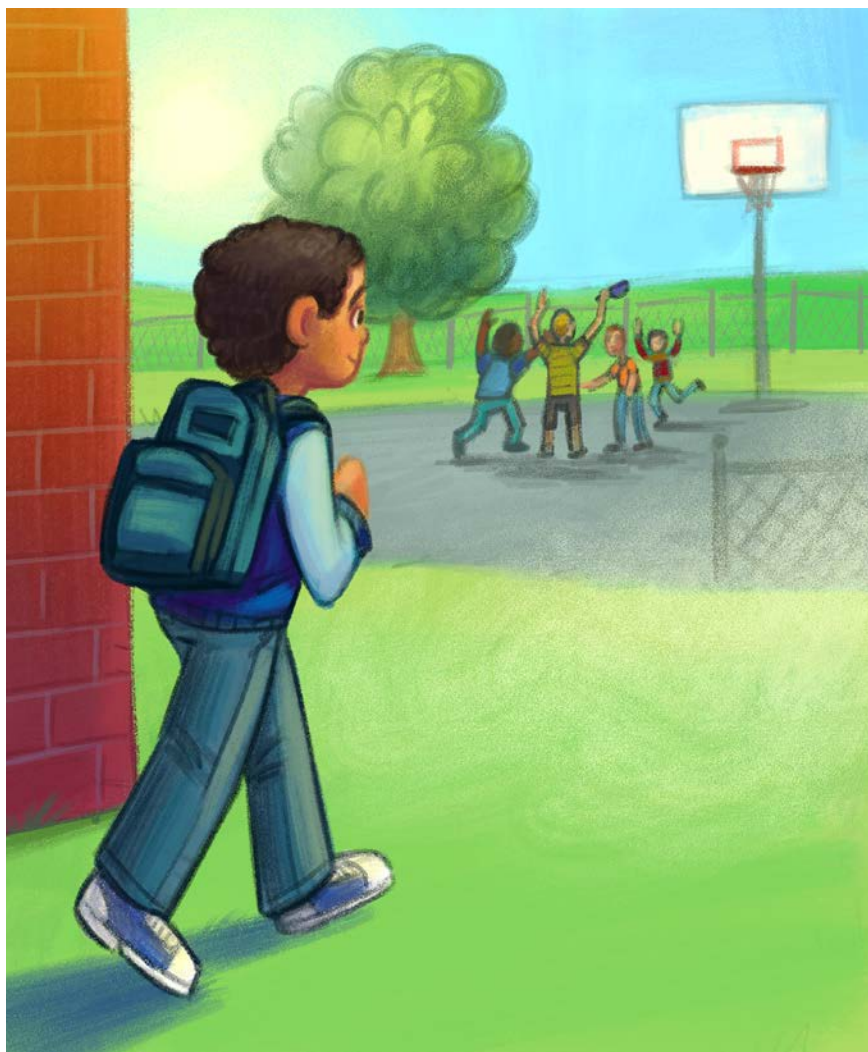
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Focus Question

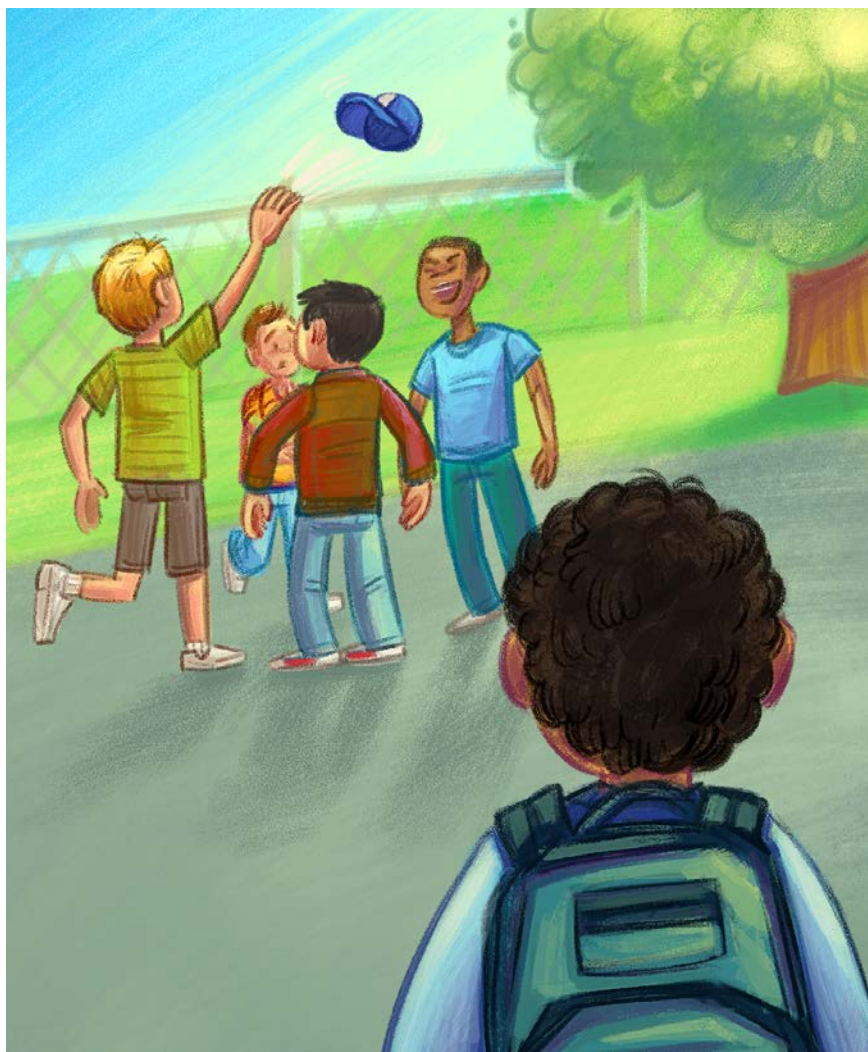
How does bullying make those involved feel?



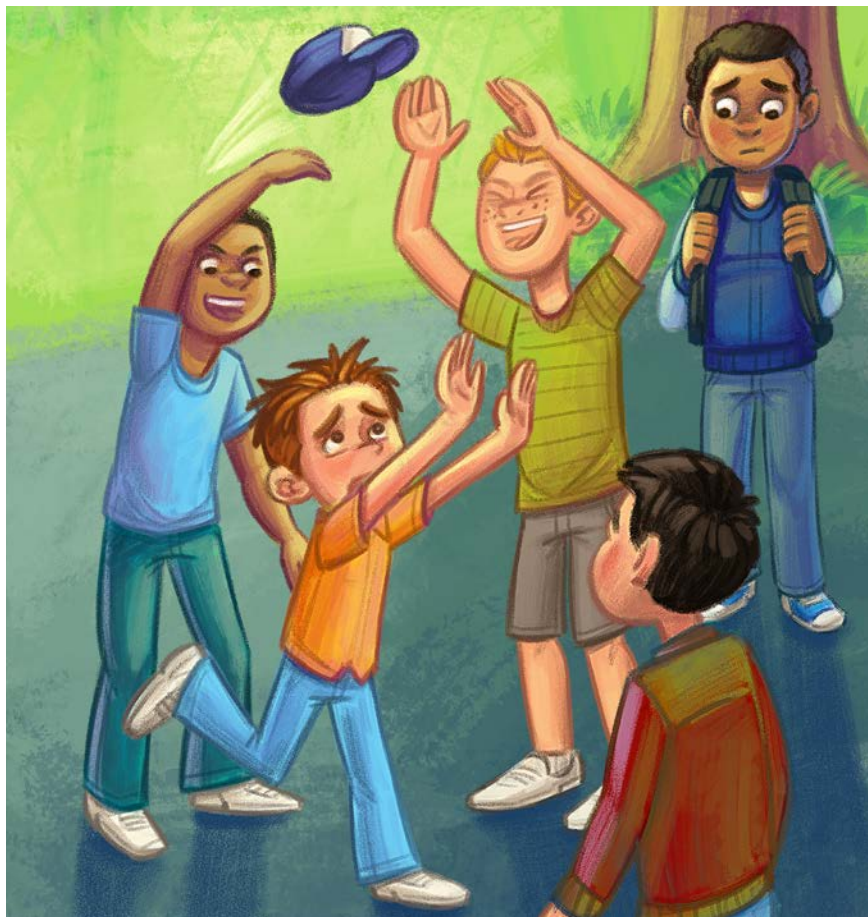
Kevin finished his homework in the library after school and hurried out. He hoped there were still enough guys around for a good game of basketball.



Kevin turned the corner toward the schoolyard. He could see some boys across the **playground**. They were all making noise and having fun. He was glad they were still there.



As Kevin came closer to the boys, he could **sense** that something was wrong. The boys were grouped closely together, and their cheers sounded more like **teasing**.



When Kevin reached the others, he could see what was going on. The group was throwing a baseball cap back and forth. They were playing **keep-away** from one boy in the middle. His name was Joey, and he was **deaf**.



“What’s the matter, Joey?” they teased. “Poor little Joey wants his cap back?” They laughed as they tossed the cap from one boy to the next. Joey ran and jumped in between them, but he couldn’t catch his cap.



“Hey, Kevin! Here!” one of the boys shouted as Kevin approached them. The boy tossed Joey’s cap to Kevin.



All the boys shouted and waved their arms, calling for the cap back from Kevin. Joey ran over and stopped in front of Kevin. Kevin could see that Joey's face was streaked with tears.



“Come on, Kevin! Throw it here!”
the other boys shouted. Joey stood
silent. His hair was a mess, and his
clothes were damp with sweat.



Kevin handed the cap to Joey.

Joey looked at Kevin for a moment, then pulled on his cap and ran away. The other boys booed and shouted at Kevin.



“Awww, look at the BFFs!” they teased. “More like DFFs—deaf friends forever. Hey, are you going to hang out and not hear things together?”



Now Kevin found himself in the middle of the crowd of boys. They closed in around him. Kevin had to say something.



“That **insult** doesn’t even make sense. You guys shouldn’t pick on Joey just because he’s different,” Kevin said. “Think how hard it must be to be deaf, and think how much you’ve hurt his feelings!”



Kevin didn't feel like playing basketball with those guys anymore. He broke through the boys and ran after Joey.

Glossary

deaf (<i>adj.</i>)	able to hear little or nothing at all (p. 6)
insult (<i>n.</i>)	a rude or offensive remark or action (p. 14)
keep-away (<i>n.</i>)	a game in which two or more people try to keep something away from another (p. 6)
playground (<i>n.</i>)	a place for outdoor play, often near a school (p. 4)
sense (<i>v.</i>)	to become aware of something (p. 5)
teasing (<i>n.</i>)	an act of making fun of someone (p. 5)

Words to Know

deaf

insult

keep-away

playground

sense

teasing

Different

Level K Leveled Book

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Correlation

LEVEL K

Fountas & Pinnell	J
Reading Recovery	17
DRA	18

Different

A Reading A-Z Level K Leveled Book
Word Count: 370

Connections

Writing

If the boys wrote an apology to Joey, what might they say? Put yourself in the place of one of the bullies and write a letter apologizing to Joey.

Social Studies

Work with a group to make and present a commercial informing other kids at your school of what to do if they are bullied or if they see bullying happening.



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