



ABOUT THE BOOK

Ajeet Singh is surrounded by a group of children who won't share toys or play with him. They bully, tease and bring him down! His mom advises him to seek out children with different qualities, specifically, those who are happy and kind like the type of child he wants to be. Ajeet Singh learns that true friends bring out the best in each other.

THEME: Bullying

SUB THEMES: Friendship, Feelings



The story of Brave Lion Books begins with the birth of our first son, Ajeet Singh. After reading and re-reading dozens of children's books to him, it was clear that the books with images of Sikhs always became Ajeet's favorite. In those handful of books, he sees a reflection of his identity and experiences, boosting his self-confidence. Brave Lion Books is dedicated to producing children's literature for young Sikhs because we believe all children need books that are inclusive, imaginative, and inspiring.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

Introduce *Ajeet Singh, The Invincible Lion* by talking with students about "What is a bully? Ask the students how they would define bullying. Write the responses on a poster. Create a collaborative definition. *Example Definition - Bullying is when someone hurts another person, either hurts their body or hurts them with their words.*

Next, ask "How does a bully act?" Elicit a few responses. Give examples of what a bully is and is not. For example, making fun of someone because they look different or pushing someone and laughing is bullying. Accidentally running into someone and apologizing is not bullying.

Now, read the title of the book "*Ajeet Singh, The Invincible Lion.*" Prompt the students to look carefully at the cover and ask the following question: What do you see in this picture? Share that Ajeet Singh is a name, ask the students "Whose name do you think it is?"

VOCABULARY

Ask students to watch for the vocabulary words as they read.

- brave (pg. 1, pg. 6)
- fearless (pg. 1)
- ignore (pg. 4)
- challenge (pg. 8)
- turban of *dastar* (cover, pg. 1)



**TURBAN or
DASTAR**

READ-ALoud

During the first read, ask students to look carefully at the illustrations as they listen. Ask the students if they see anything unique on the page. Draw attention to the following details:

- Ajeet Singh speaks two languages; he is wearing a turban or *dastar*; he may look different from the other children in the class, but he is still the same
 - Ask the students – “How many of you can speak two languages?”
- The book is written in two languages – “This language is called *Punjabi* – it is spoken by the people of Punjab, who live all over the world (*depending on age group, show a map of Punjab*). *Punjabi* looks very different from English letters.”

On page two and three, tease out the theme of bullying. Direct the children to look closely at the face Ajeet Singh is making. Have students make the face that Ajeet Singh is making. Ask “how do you think Ajeet Singh feels?” “Have you ever felt this way?”

Once students respond to how he is feeling, ask “Why is Ajeet Singh sad?” Ask students to use evidence to support their answers and give evidence from the text of why Ajeet Singh may be sad.

CLASS ACTIVITY

Use the game I Spy to teach problem-solving skills and how to look for details.

Point out the lion on cover. Let the students know as you reread the book they will be playing a game, “I Spy!” Ask the students to look for the lion on each page. Once they find the lion, they should put their index figure on their nose.

If possible, project the book on a whiteboard or screen.

AFTER YOU READ

How does Ajeet Singh deal with the bullies in his class? *This is a good opportunity to give students scenarios and roleplay how they would deal with a bully. Example scenarios -*

- A. Some children make fun of a boy during play time. They ask him to play soccer but then pick him last for their team and never pass him the ball. Create a role-play that shows how the boy gets help from a friend.
- B. One student calls another student stupid and knocks into that student on purpose. Create a role-play that shows how you get help from a trusted adult.
- C. A student comes over to you on the playground and asks you to stop playing with your best friend because he or she is weird. Create a role-play where you ignore the bully and keep playing with your friend.

What are some other ways we can deal with bullying? *As a class, create an action plan to deal with bullies. Example: ignore the bully, use your words and tell them to stop, or involve an adult*

Hold a discussion about what it means to be a good friend and how a good friend behaves. Ask questions like, how are you a good friend? How do you help your friends? What kind of words do you use with your friends? What does a good friend do for you? Make a poster that lists qualities of a good friend (nice, helpful, silly, etc).

Connect this back to Ajeet Singh, what kind of friends did Ajeet Singh want? Why? When the discussion is over, ask students to select a good friend quality and draw a picture. They can either write or share what qualities make this person a good friend.

TAKE HOME CONVERSATION

Ask a family member to share a bullying situation they may have experienced. Discuss how they felt, how the situation was handled and what ways they dealt with the bully.