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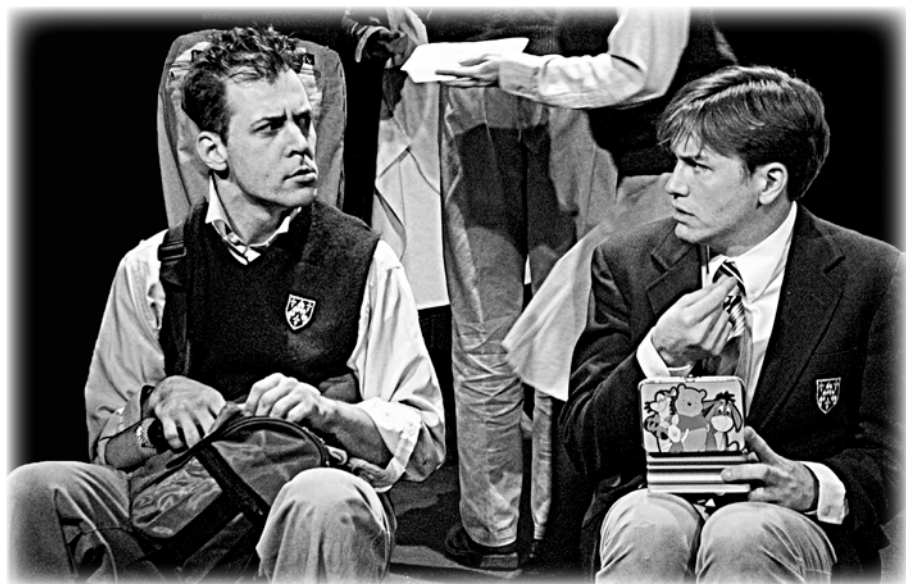
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Dramatic Publishing

"*The Bully*, like the best kind of teacher, nudges children toward the truth and then lets them discover it on their own."

—*The New York Times*

THE BULLY



BOOK BY
DAVID L. WILLIAMS

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
JOHN GREGOR

THE BULLY

"When you're not very big, and you're not very tall, friends come in handy after all." "Humorously and thoughtfully tackles the bullying epidemic. ...
A show too wonderful to ignore."

—NYMetroParents

"Speaks to kids on their own terms about a subject that really truly matters."

—Time Out New York

Musical. Book by David L. Williams. Music and lyrics by John Gregor. Cast: 2m., 1w., 3 either gender, extras as desired, or the entire cast can be gender flexible. Lenny is the smartest kid at Wilson Middle School and is constantly picked on by Steve, the school bully, in gym class, on the bus, at lunch ... well, you get the idea! One day a bus mix-up leaves the two boys stranded at the wrong school, where they both get picked on for being the "new kids" by the sweet and surprisingly terrifying Meg. Lenny and Steve learn what life is really like for the other and decide to work together and make a plan to get back to their own school. Before they can escape, Meg catches them. The boys stand up to her, and Meg realizes that she doesn't have any real friends at her school—just kids who are scared of her. So, she helps them get back to Wilson Middle School. Back in gym, Lenny faces the rope climb, and the kids tease him as usual. But Steve bravely stands up and encourages him on, even though the other kids begin making fun of him, too. Minimal set. Accompaniment CD available. Approximate running time: 50 minutes. Code: BK8.

Front Cover: Vital Theatre Company, New York City, featuring (l-r) Miron Gusso and Brian Charles Rooney. Photo: Sun Productions. Cover design: John Sergel.

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Book by

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JOHN GREGOR



Dramatic Publishing Company

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Music and lyrics by JOHN GREGOR

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(THE BULLY)

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The Bully premiered at the Vital Theatre Company in New York City on December 7, 2005.

CAST

Lenny Brian Charles Rooney
Steve..... Miron Gusso
Meg Laura Binstock
Vice Principal Agnew, Ms. Roosevelt..... Jeanette Bonner
Teddy, Little Kid Katherine Boynton

ADDITIONAL CAST

Shane Camp
Jere Williams

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director Suzu McConnell-Wood
Choreographer..... Marco Jo Clate
Musical direction John Gregor
Scenic design Eric Everett
Lighting design Carrie Yacono
Costume design..... Amy Kitzhaber
Production Stage Manager Kanako Morita

The Bully

CHARACTERS

LENNY: A smart but puny middle-schooler.

STEVE: A tough, bullying middle-schooler.

MEG: A 6th grader who looks sweet as can be but is the toughest girl around.

TED, TEDDY and THEO: The members of Meg's crew.

CREW MEMBERS 1 & 2: The members of Steve's crew.

BUS DRIVER 1: The school bus driver for Wilson Middle School.

BUS DRIVER 2: The school bus driver for the Weltbottom School.

VICE PRINCIPAL AGNEW: The vice principal of the Weltbottom School.

COACH: Steve and Lenny's gym teacher.

LITTLE KID 1: A kid at Steve and Lenny's school.

MS. ROOSEVELT: The history teacher at the Weltbottom School.

LITTLE KID 2: A kid at the Weltbottom school.

SCENES

SCENE 1: Wilson Middle School gymnasium.

SCENE 2: A school bus.

SCENE 3: A suburban bus stop; a school bus; outside the Weltbottom School; the halls of Weltbottom; the boiler room of Weltbottom.

SCENE 4: The halls of Weltbottom.

SCENE 5: History classroom.

SCENE 6: The cafeteria; outside Weltbottom.

SCENE 7: Wilson Middle School gymnasium.

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The Bully

SCENE 1

(#1: “Gym Class Is Evil”)

AT RISE: *Darkness. A single light on LENNY, a small middle-schooler, sitting at a desk, wearing school clothes.*

LENNY.

THERE'S A TIME IN EACH DAY
THAT I PRAY NEVER COMES.
THERE'S AN HOUR IN EACH DAY
THAT I WISH I COULD SKIP.
AND EVERY DAY IN CLASS
I WATCH THE CLOCK
FILLED WITH FEAR
AND BEFORE I KNOW IT,
IT'S HERE!

(BELL RINGS. LENNY puts on a jersey. A flurry of activity as the lights come up. Wilson Middle School gymnasium. A rope dangles from the ceiling. LENNY and the OTHER KIDS do pushups and jumping jacks. LENNY tries and fails miserably. The OTHER KIDS laugh.)

LENNY (*cont'd*).

GYM CLASS IS EVIL,
GYM IS PURE EVIL.
ITS ONLY PURPOSE
IS TO BE EVIL.

GYM CLASS IS TORTURE,
IT'S AWFUL TORTURE.
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING THAT THEY CAN DO.

(Tries to do an exercise and fails.)

I CAN READ AND DO MATH.
 I CAN PAINT, I CAN DRAW,
 BUT GYM CLASS POINTS OUT
 MY EVERY LAST FLAW.
 GYM CLASS IS AWFUL
 FOR ME.

COACH.

GET BACK IN LINE
 OR IT'S TWO HOURS OF DETENTION FOR YOU.
 GET BACK IN LINE
 OR IT'S TWO HOURS OF DETENTION FOR YOU.

LENNY.

I HATE RUNNING THE TRACK.
 I HATE WEARING A JERSEY.
 I HATE THE WAY THAT THEY TEASE
 WHEN I FALL TO MY KNEES
 AFTER DOING THESE STUPID PUSHUPS.

*(STEVE, a big middle-schooler, emerges from the group.
 STEVE and the OTHER KIDS slowly encircle LENNY.)*

STEVE & OTHER KIDS. LENNY.

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| LOOK AT LENNY, | |
| LOOK AT POOR LENNY. | OH NO! |
| HE'S SO WEAK AND | |
| HE CAN'T DO ANY | OH NO! |

STEVE & GROUP 1. GROUP 2. LENNY.

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------|--------|
| PUSHUPS, SITUPS, | LOOK AT LENNY, | |
| LOOK AT POOR | LOOK AT POOR | |
| LENNY. | LENNY, | |
| HE'S SO WEAK AND | HE'S SO WEAK AND | OH NO! |
| HE CAN'T DO ANY | HE CAN'T DO ANY | |
| | HE CAN'T DO ANY- | |
| | THING | |
| | THAT HE TRIES TO DO! | |

(LENNY tries to do another exercise and fails.)

KID 1.

HE'S PUNY!

KID 2.

HE'S TINY!

KID 3.

HE'S AWKWARD TOO.

STEVE & OTHER KIDS.

WITHOUT LENNY WHAT WOULD WE DO?
LENNY IS A BULLY'S DREAM COME TRUE!

COACH.

DON'T YOU GIVE UP YOUR DAY JOBS.
DON'T YOU GET UP YOUR HOPES.
CLASS ISN'T OVER AND DONE
UNTIL EVERY LAST ONE
OF YOU TRIES TO
CLIMB THE ROPES!

KIDS.

I LIKE WHEN WE MAKE FUN OF LENNY.
THAT'S THE ONE THING ON WHICH WE AGREE.
BECAUSE WHEN WE MAKE FUN OF LENNY
NO ONE'S LOOKING AT ME

LENNY.

STEVE IS EVIL,
STEVE IS PURE EVIL.
HIS ONLY PURPOSE IS TO BE EVIL.

STEVE IS AWFUL,
HE'S SIMPLY AWFUL.
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING THAT HE CAN DO!

(Tries to do yet another exercise and again fails.)

HE MAKES ME FEEL ROTTEN
 THAT'S PERFECTLY CLEAR
 AND SO SMALL
 THAT I FEAR
 I COULD JUST DISAPPEAR.
 STEVE IS SO AWFUL
 TO ME!

(All go over to the rope. All three groups sing, LENNY, COACH and the KIDS, teasing, as LENNY goes to the rope, gets ready to climb and tries to climb the rope.)

| | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|
| LENNY. | COACH. | STEVE & OTHER KIDS. |
| GYM IS PURE AW- FUL | GET BACK IN LINE ... | LOOK AT LENNY, LOOK AT POOR LENNY ... |
| WASTED TIME FOR FOR EVERYONE. | | |
| GYM IS STUPID, GYM IS SO STUPID | | |
| IT'S NOT IMPORTANT AND NOT VERY FUN | AHH | AHH |

COACH *(impatiently reminding him again)*. Come on, Lenny,
it's your turn!

STEVE *(to his friends)*. Watch this, guys.

LENNY.

ESPECIALLY WHEN
 YOU'RE NOT VERY TALL,
 AND YOU'RE NOT VERY STRONG
 AND NOT POPULAR AT ALL,

AND YOU CAN'T CLIMB THE ROPES
 CAUSE YOU KNOW YOU'LL JUST FALL,
 AND YOUR JERSEY'S TOO BIG,
 BUT YOUR MUSCLES ARE SMALL.

IT'S PLAIN TO SEE
 EVERY MONDAY AT THREE

WAS DESIGNED TO MAKE ME FEEL
AS SMALL AS CAN BE!
GYM CLASS
IS AWFUL!

ALL.

LENNY LENNY

LENNY.

GYM CLASS IS ROTTEN!

ALL.

LENNY LENNY

(STEVE pulls the rope and knocks LENNY off of it.)

LENNY.

GYM CLASS IS AWFUL
FOR ME!

(Bell rings.)

COACH. That's it, hit the showers. Steve, detention!

STEVE. Again? Oh well, it's worth it for Lenny.

(#2: "Gym Class Is Evil" [Outro])

SCENE 2

(The inside of a school bus. LENNY is already there, nose buried in a book. STEVE enters with CREW MEMBERS 1 & 2.)

CREW MEMBER 1. That was a good one, Steve.

CREW MEMBER 2. Yeah, you really told him.

STEVE. Hey, what's a few more weeks of detention.

CREW MEMBER 1. You're gonna let Lenny off that easy?

STEVE. Not a chance.

(They've made it to the back of the bus, and LITTLE KID 1 is there, reading.)

STEVE (*cont'd*). Well, well, well, lookee here. Boys, do you see what I'm seeing.

CREW MEMBER 1. Sure do.

CREW MEMBER 2. Um ... yeah?

STEVE. Hey, twerp. Hey, kid!

(LITTLE KID 1 looks up, scared.)

LITTLE KID 1. Yeah?

STEVE. What're you reading?

LITTLE KID 1. *Animal Farm*.

STEVE. You like it?

LITTLE KID 1. Yeah.

STEVE. You like it so much you think you can sit in my seat and read it?

LITTLE KID 1. What?

CREW MEMBER 1. That is Steve's seat.

CREW MEMBER 2. Yeah, and you ain't Steve.

LITTLE KID 1. Oh. I'm really sorry. I'll sit somewhere else.

STEVE. No, no, no. If you're important enough to sit down in my seat, then you should stay.

LITTLE KID 1. I'm not—

STEVE. But your book can't.

(STEVE takes the book from LITTLE KID 1 and throws it down the aisle of the bus. The LITTLE KID 1 gets up and gets the book, nearly in tears.)

CREW MEMBER 1. You see what he did there?

CREW MEMBER 2. He put the kid in a situation where he had to give up his seat to Steve if he wanted his book.

CREW MEMBER 1. Yeah.

(STEVE sits in his seat, alone. CREW MEMBERS 1 & 2 sit in a nearby seat.)

LITTLE KID 1. You're such a bully!

CREW MEMBER 1. Did you hear that, Steve? That kid called you a bully.

(#3: "Call Me a Bully")

STEVE. Oh yeah?

*I CAN HAVE ANY SEAT ON THE BUS THAT I WANT.
I'M STRONGER THAN ANY OF THE OTHER GUYS.
IF I WANT AN EXTRA DESSERT,
I JUST SAY THE WORD
AND NO ONE HERE THINKS OTHERWISE.
AND EVERY DAY A NEW KID
WANTS TO GIVE ME HIS BIKE FOR FREE.
SO IF THEY HAPPEN TO CALL ME A BULLY
THAT'S FINE BY ME.*

STEVE'S CREW.

HUH!

STEVE.

*I CAN HAVE ANYTHING THAT I WANT.
WHEN I SPEAK PEOPLE LISTEN TO ME.
IF I SAY BLACK IS WHITE,
IF I SAY UP IS DOWN,
EVERYONE WILL NOD THEIR HEAD AND AGREE.
NOTHING COMPARES TO THE CHEERS
WHEN YOU KICK A KID RIGHT IN THE KNEE.
SO IF THEY HAPPEN TO CALL ME A BULLY
THAT'S FINE BY ME.*

STEVE'S CREW.

HUH!

STEVE.

SO, WHAT IS A BULLY?

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ANYWAY?

STEVE'S CREW.

LA, LA, LA, LA, LA, LA

STEVE.

IT MUST MEAN I'M STRONGER THAN ANYONE
AND PEOPLE CARE WHAT I HAVE TO SAY.

SO, WHEN YOU'RE A BULLY,

KIDS TREAT YOU LIKE A KING.

STEVE'S CREW.

LA, LA, LA, LA, LA, LA

STEVE.

IT'S A PRETTY SWEET DEAL

AND I PERSON'LY FEEL

WHY MESS UP A VERY GOOD THING?

THEY SAY THAT THE BEST THINGS

IN LIFE ARE FREE

AND THAT EXTRA ESPECIALLY

APPLIES TO ME!

THEY CALL ME A BULLY

AND YOU BETTER BELIEVE

THAT'S THE BEST THING YOU

COULD EVER BE.

STEVE.

I'M THE FINEST FRIEND YOU
COULD EVER HAVE
AND I'LL PUNCH YOU IF YOU
DON'T AGREE.

CALL ME A BULLY
THAT'S FINE BY ME

STEVE'S CREW.

LALALALALALAL ...

CALL HIM A BULLY

CREW MEMBER 1.

ME

CREW MEMBER 2.

ME

STEVE.

FINE BY ME

STEVE & STEVE'S CREW.

YEAH!

BUS DRIVER. All right, boys, this is your stop.

(All start to exit the bus. STEVE stops at LENNY's seat.)

STEVE. Don't worry, Lenny, I didn't forget about you. See you tomorrow. *(Leaves the bus.)*

LENNY. Tomorrow? *(Exits.)*

(#4: "Call Me a Bully" [Outro])

SCENE 3

(A suburban bus stop. LENNY enters, looking around.)

LENNY. He's ... he's ... he's not here? Can I really be this lucky? He'd actually miss the day I had to—

STEVE *(from off)*. Len-ny. Len-ny.

LENNY. So, no, I'm not this lucky.

(STEVE enters with CREW MEMBERS 1 & 2. STEVE stares at LENNY for a few seconds.)

STEVE. You don't say good morning?

LENNY. Hey, Steve.

STEVE. What?

LENNY. I said, “Hey, Steve.”

STEVE. What??

LENNY. Good morning, Steve.

STEVE. Now was that so hard? Good morning to you, Leonard. Len-nerd. You know, guys, you can’t spell “nerd” without “Leonard.”

CREW MEMBER 1. You see what he did there?

CREW MEMBER 2. He took his name and made a joke out of it.

CREW MEMBER 1. Yeah. Good one, Steve.

CREW MEMBER 2. Yeah, good one.

LENNY. And you can’t spell “stupidest man ever” without “Steve.”

STEVE. What did you just say, Len-nerd?

LENNY. What? Nothing.

STEVE. No, no, no. You tell me what you just said, you little punk.

LENNY. I didn’t say anything, Steve.

STEVE. C’mere!

(STEVE makes a run at LENNY who runs away. STEVE chases him off. A school bus pulls up.)

CREW MEMBER 1. Steve’s gonna miss the bus.

CREW MEMBER 2. Like he’ll care.

(They get on the bus. It pulls away. Another bus pulls up. LENNY and STEVE enter, STEVE holding LENNY’s arm behind his back.)

LENNY. Ow, ow, ow! Cut it out, Steve!

STEVE. Come on. You can apologize to me on the bus.

(They get on the bus and ride along for a little while. LENNY’s nose is buried in a book, but STEVE notices something.)

STEVE. Hey, dork. Hey!

LENNY. What?

STEVE. You notice anything weird about this bus?

LENNY. Yeah, it's going the wrong way.

STEVE. Did you happen to notice we're the only people on here?

LENNY. Oh, yeah. (*To the BUS DRIVER.*) Ma'am, I think we're on the wrong—

BUS DRIVER. No talking to the driver until we get to the Weltbottom School.

STEVE. Yeah, but we don't go to the—

BUS DRIVER. I said, "No talking to the driver until we get to the Weltbottom School."

LENNY. What do we do?

STEVE. We don't do anything. They'll let us out at wherever she said.

LENNY. Yeah.

STEVE. Actually, I'm looking forward to it. I've heard really good things about that school.

LENNY. You have?

STEVE. Sure. I hear it's got the best athletic programs in the whole state. I'm sure I'll do great there. Better than you, anyway.

LENNY. Oh, yeah. I've heard of that school.

STEVE. You have?

LENNY. Sure I have. But it's not a school for athletes.

STEVE. It's not?

LENNY. No, I hear it's a school for the smartest kids in the state. They have the toughest classes, but I'm sure it won't be a problem. Not for me anyway.

STEVE. I think you're thinking of the wrong school.

LENNY. Well, I think *you're* thinking of the wrong school.

STEVE. I guess we'll just have to see.

LENNY. I guess we will.