

What Is Bullying?

In the play “Temple Grandin,” Temple struggles with bullies as a teen. In “More Than a Pretty Face,” Alicia Patton also has to deal with bullying. Read this paragraph about bullying. Then, follow the directions to work on the skill of finding the main idea and details.

Bullying is not just fighting. There are three main ways that bullying happens. One type of bullying is verbal bullying. This is when someone makes threats or calls another person names. Sometimes this is called teasing. Another type of bullying is psychological bullying. Psychological means that it affects how the victim thinks

and feels. A bully might stop talking to another student or spread mean rumors. Finally, there is physical bullying. This includes hitting and pushing. It also includes destroying someone’s property. All of these types of bullying are serious, and can really hurt the victims. Most schools have rules against any type of bullying.

1. The main idea of a paragraph is one statement that sums up what the writer is saying. It is usually one of the first few sentences in a paragraph. Underline the main idea of this paragraph.

2. Supporting details back up the main idea. These details might be reasons or examples. Put a check mark next to the three main supporting details in this paragraph. Hint: Usually a supporting detail is introduced with a transition word, like “one,” “another,” or “finally.”

3. Writing Extension: Now, write your own paragraph about bullying with a main idea and supporting details. Use these sentences to start your paragraph:

Bullying [is/is not] a big problem at my school. One example of how it [is / is not] a problem is ... _____
