



2019

Boss No More

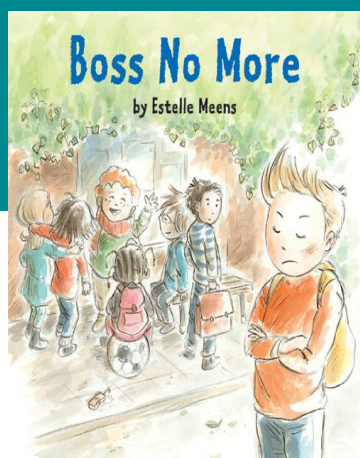
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Book Review

Boss No More

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Illustrator

Estelle Meens

Reviewer

Carly Atchley

Rating

Excellent

Level

Primary

Pages

32

Year

2014

Publisher

Magination Press

ISBN

9781433816420

Lucas has lots of friends at his school, and the new kid, Timothy, has none. Lucas is quick to point this out to anyone who will listen, along with the fact that Nina is just lucky in soccer, not talented, that Alex is a teacher's pet, and that his best friend Hugo's little sister is a whiny baby. The more Lucas teases and bosses his friends around, the fewer friends he seems to have. Finally, Hugo's sister points out that if he keeps pushing others away through bossing and making fun, he'll be alone for the rest of his life. Lucas is heartbroken as he explains to his mom what has happened. She suggests that he use his talents to uplift his friends rather than tear them down. In the end, Lucas makes individual drawings for each of his friends, highlighting their talents and building back friendships he had lost.

This publication by the American Psychological Association spotlights a common phenomenon among children who feel inadequate and therefore put others down through their words or bossy behaviors. The idea of resolving social conflict is described in a simple way with a relatable character, helping children feel they are a part of the story and can learn from Lucas's mistakes. The end of the book includes a section directed to parents and caregivers, informing both how they can help their children learn to be kind to others and avoid being bossy. While the story is simple and the drawings colorful and fun, the writing can be somewhat confusing as the first half of the story exists primarily in quotations, before switching seemingly at random to first-person narrative. Despite this, *Boss No More* is a simple but engaging way to teach kindness to young children.