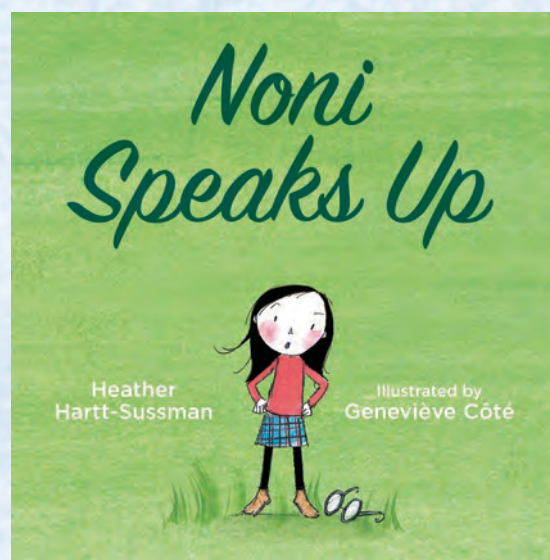


Speak up against bullying!





About the Book

Noni always tries to do the right thing. But she doesn't know how to help her classmate Hector, who is constantly bullied for his name, his size and his giant glasses. Noni stands by silently, afraid that the kids will turn on her if she speaks up. Yet "doing nothing" doesn't feel very good. Will Noni be brave enough to take matters into her own hands?

This touching and empowering story about having the courage to stand up for a friend can be used in a number of ways including:

- Exploring themes and concepts such as courage, empathy, self-esteem, confidence, difference, and respect
- As a tool to start or continue the discussion about bullying and peer pressure
- As an engaging read-aloud experience

Discussion prompts and suggested activities have been linked to Common Core State Standards where applicable.



About the Author

Heather Hartt-Sussman, born in Montreal, graduated from Brandeis University and attended the Sorbonne. She has been a copywriter for BCP in Montreal, a reporter for the Hollywood Reporter, editor-in-chief for international news for *TV Guide* in French Canada, where she was columnist of the popular "Heather Hartt in Hollywood" and host of E! Entertainment Television's *The Gossip Show*. She is author of the acclaimed picture books *Nana's Getting Married*, *Here Comes Hortense!* and *Nana's Summer Surprise*. Her first two books about Noni, *Noni Says No* and *Noni Is Nervous*, were both finalists for Ontario's Blue Spruce Award. Heather Hartt-Sussman lives in Toronto.

About the Illustrator

Geneviève Côté has illustrated numerous books for children, including the first two Noni stories, and is the author-illustrator of *Bob's Hungry Ghost* as well as a number of other picture books. She has received many awards and honors for her work, including Canada's most prestigious literary prize, the Governor General's Award for Children's Illustration. Her art has also been featured in such publications as the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*. Geneviève Côté lives in Montreal.



Links

- www.genevievecoteillustration.com
- www.stopabully.ca
- www.pinkshirtday.ca



Before You Read RL SL

- The story is about a little girl named Noni. The first line of the story reads, "Noni always tries to do the right thing." What does this mean? Do you always try to do the right thing? Can you think of an example of when you have tried to do the "right thing?" Is it always the easiest thing to do? Why or why not?
- Think of a time when either you or somebody you know "spoke up" for somebody else.
- What is your understanding of the word "bully?" Write a definition. Have you ever had any personal experiences with a bully?
- Brainstorm a list of all the different ways bullying can occur.
- Do you think it is okay to look and act differently than your peers? Why or why not?
- How can you recognize when somebody is not being a friend?

While You Read RI SL

- After reading the first two pages of the story, what are three examples of Noni trying to do the "right thing?" In each of these three situations, Noni had a choice to behave differently. Draw and/or write about what it would have been like if Noni had decided to not do the right thing in each of the three situations.
- "But, today, when she sees the kids bullying Hector at school, Noni freezes. She does not budge. She cannot get a single word out." At this point in the story, what choice does Noni make? Why?
- Noni is confused when Susie laughs after Hector is pushed off the swing. Do you think Susie actually found this funny? What could be the reason behind Susie laughing?

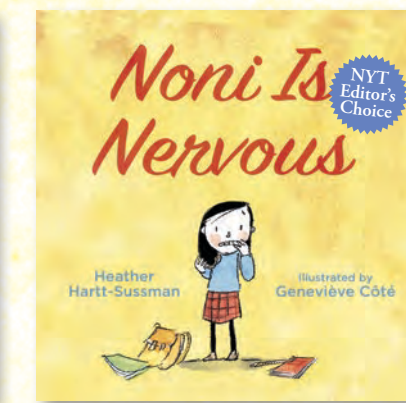
Post-Reading Discussion Questions RI SL

- Make a list of five to ten words that describe Noni's personality. Is Noni the kind of person you would like to have as a friend? Why or why not?
- What was the main reason that Noni did not speak up for Hector right away? Have you ever had a similar experience?
- What changes in Noni's life as she gets older that prevents her from speaking up to Hector's bullies right away?
- Hector was teased about his name, his size and his glasses. Why are people who look different often the targets of bullies?
- When Hector was pushed off the swing, how do you think Noni, Susie, the boy and Hector were each feeling? As Noni and Hector are leaving the park together, how do you think they were feeling?
- Review the list from the pre-reading discussion about the different forms of bullying. After reading the story, do you have anything to add to the list?
- According to www.pinkshirtday.ca, a bullying awareness website, "Studies have shown that when peers intervene on behalf of the victim, often bullying stops within 10 seconds." When Noni spoke up for Hector, what happened?
- Not speaking up for somebody who is bullied can be just as harmful as actually being a bully yourself. Discuss this statement in small groups or as a class, and connect it to the events in the story.
- Susie stopped laughing as soon as Noni spoke up for Hector. Why did Noni's actions stop her from laughing? Write a letter of apology to Hector from Susie that explains why she behaved the way that she did.

- Make a list of three different emotions you felt as you read the story. Explain why you felt this way, directly referring to events in the story.
- Do you think that everybody in a classroom or school needs to be friends? How should you treat people who are not necessarily your friends?
- Hector was a victim of repeated bullying by his peers. If you have an argument with somebody one time, can this be considered bullying? Why or why not?

Extension Activities RI SL W

- Using sticky notes, bookmarks or scrap pieces of paper, divide the story into three major parts: the beginning, middle and ending. Write one sentence for each section that summarizes what happens in each of these three parts.
- Review your school's policy about bullying. What is your school community's recommended course of action should you or somebody you know be a victim of bullying?
- Design a public service campaign that advertises an anti-bullying message. Use Noni as the spokesperson for the campaign. Consider creating posters, filming commercials, writing skits or poetry, writing songs, etc.
- Noni refused to stand by and watch Hector be bullied. Make a list of things you can do if you witness somebody being bullied. For example, "Do not laugh if somebody is being teased."
- Visit www.pinkshirtday.ca to learn more about this nationwide anti-bullying campaign. Research when Bullying Awareness Week is being held in your community and how you can get involved.
- Consider reading more titles about Noni including *Noni Says No* and *Noni is Nervous*.



Appendix:

Common Core State Standard
Text Type: Literature (Stories)

- RL Reading and Literature
- SL Speaking and Listening
- W Writing

Before You Read

Reading and Literature
K.10

Speaking and Listening
K.1, K.6, 1.1, 2.1

While You Read

Reading and Literature
K.1, K.10, 1.1

Speaking and Listening
K.1, K.5, 1.1, 1.5

Post-Reading Discussion Questions

Reading and Literature
K.1, K.10, 1.1, 2.1

Speaking and Listening
K.1, K.2, 1.1, 1.2, 2.2

Writing
1.2, 2.2

Extension Activities

Reading and Literature
K.10

Speaking and Listening
2.2

Writing
K.2