

# SEL Discussion Guide

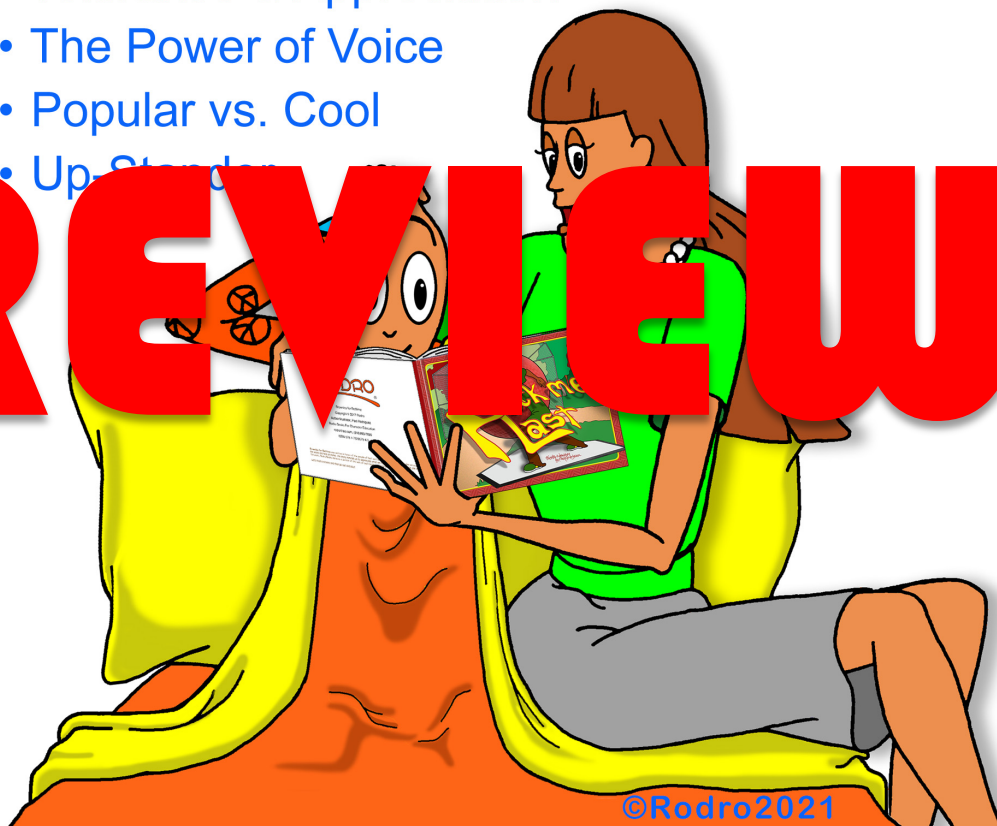
## Pick Me Last

thoughts & drawings  
by Paul Rodriguez

### SEL FOCUS • Social Awareness

- Appreciating Diversity
- Discrimination & Racism
- Tolerance & Appreciation
- The Power of Voice
- Popular vs. Cool
- Up-Stepping

# PREVIEW



## PICK ME LAST!

### Here's why this book is important!

You are not alone!  
There are lots of good people in this world.

Together, we are breaking down bullying tricks and tactics.  
For Example—

“Mind your own business.” is a trick as old as time.

For generations, bullies have tried to make us think that protecting each other is not our business—  
*but it is!*

Standing up to abuse, racism, bigotry, and other injustices  
*is our business!*

When we allow a bully to abuse one person, we open the door for the abuse of everyone!

We are connected in this way.  
We must be brave enough to help others if we expect them to help us.

Keeping our world safe is all of our business.

This book teaches our children to stand together and stand up for each other.

It also models how we can help bullies understand their ignorance, overcome fears and insecurities, and become better people.

**Up-Standing is Outstanding!**



Dear Parent,

Thank you for purchasing this Rodro book and welcome to Rodro Books and Education.

When it comes to parents bonding with their children, the bedtime story is one of our oldest, most cherished, and valuable traditions. Throughout history, all parents, all around the world, have passed along life's lessons to their children through the wonderful and instructional stories of their cultures. Yet, within this tradition, we tend to take for granted the most important part— answering the questions of our children's endlessly curious brains. I recognize and value the vital role that discussing these questions plays in shaping their hearts and minds. This is what inspired me to design the Rodro book collection specifically for parents, educators, and children to share.

No matter who does the reading (child, parent, or educator), there is plenty for you and your children to share and explore together. Below, you will find Rodro's Discussion Guides with Convo-Questions about each story's character-enriching, social-emotional themes. As the name implies, it's more than just a question and answer; it's questions that stimulate conversations and lead to learning. The type of learning that enables our children to analyze, internalize, and utilize the knowledge they acquire.

One of the essential functions of the books is to provide a safe space to discuss issues that can be emotional or awkward. When children can refer to the experiences of the characters in a story, it is much easier to discuss embarrassing or uncomfortable events such as bullying. Then, careful observation and sensitivity to our children's input can lead to valuable sharing of their feelings. When you create a safe and trusting space for discussion, you may be able to alleviate traumas lurking beneath the surface and help your children develop healthy coping skills. Helping you and your children to understand and cope with life's fun and awkward events is a primary goal of Rodro's books and Convo-Questions.

With your Rodro book purchase, you have gained more than just a story; you have acquired an indispensable resource for your children's personal social, and emotional growth. Rodro books are a link to learning that puts them in control of their future! Learning that begins with Rodro's stories and Convo-Questions and expands with Rodro's programs, educational materials, and learning tools. Rodro's educational resources help you provide your children with the essential character-enriching and social-emotional learning skills that they need to succeed.

Compassionately Yours,

*Paul Rodriguez*

# Pick Me Last!



## Story Summary and Analysis

This section is for parents and educators who are interested in learning more about Social-Emotional Learning and related topics. It is not essential to the Convo-Questions and the learning that goes with them. This analysis just adds more information to the "Here's why this book is important!" page.

When Pessy gets picked on and picked last, she doesn't get upset. Instead, she rises to the challenge and reclaims her respect.

The story *Pick Me Last* demonstrates Social Awareness on a one-to-one level and a community level. Scientific studies over the past century have well established that prejudice and irrational bias are the results of learned behaviors rooted in ignorance, fear, and insecurities. Children are not born with prejudice, racial, religious, or gender bias toward others. During the formative, developmental ages of 8-10, it is still possible to take a proactive stance against these problems. This story models conflict resolution for personal, gender, and racial biases. It models how individuals can stand up for themselves and how groups can unify to stand up for each other. Most importantly, it models how self-respect can be developed by respecting others.

**Thud-** "You're last again, Pessy! Don't you get sick of being the loser, no captain will pick!?"

**Rodro-** "Whoa, don't be so mean. There's no need to scream. Besides, I want Pessy to be on *my* team."

Because of his insecurity and fear that Pessy, a girl, might be better than him, Thud tries to put her down. Bullies frequently do this to try and protect themselves from feelings of inferiority.

However, Rodro immediately lifts Pessy back up by siding with her and showing that

# PREVIEW

## CONVO-QUESTIONS

Refer to book page(s) to use the text and illustrations to support answers. Model this process for your children. Encourage responses with explanations, then discuss the responses provided.

1. What was your favorite part of the story? Why?
2. When Thud and Rodro are picking teams for kickball, what does Thud say about Pessy?

**Answer (Pg-2-3):**

I don't want Pessy! No way! She's too small!  
She'll probably trip and fall over the ball!  
You're last again, Pessy! Don't you get sick  
of being the loser, no captain will pick!?!

*Because of his insecurity and fear that Pessy, a girl, might be better than him, Thud tries to put her down. Bullies frequently do this to try and protect themselves from feelings of inferiority.*

3. How does Rodro help Pessy?

**Answer (Pg-2):** *Instead of being a bystander and letting Thud hurt his friend, Rodro is an Up-Stander. Rodro immediately stands up for Pessy by saying he wants her for his team. He supports and encourages her. He also doesn't hesitate to call Thud out on his inappropriate behavior. By doing this, he shows that he won't back down to bullying, and he won't let Thud control the situation.*

Whoa, don't be so mean. There's no need to scream.  
Besides, I want Pessy to be on my team.

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