

Lamont Books Standing Order

May 2014

Teacher Notes and Activities

The Invisible Boy

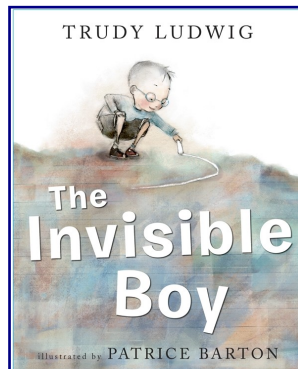
By Trudy Ludwig & Illustrated by Patrice Barton

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\$24.99

Meet Brian, the invisible boy. Nobody ever seems to notice him or think to include him in their group, game, or birthday party . . . until, that is, a new kid comes to class. When Justin, the new boy, arrives, Brian is the first to make him feel welcome. And when Brian and Justin team up to work on a class project together, Brian finds a way to shine. From esteemed author and speaker Trudy Ludwig and acclaimed illustrator Patrice Barton, this gentle story shows how small acts of kindness can help children feel included and allow them to flourish. Any parent, teacher, or counsellor looking for material that sensitively addresses the needs of quieter children will find *The Invisible Boy* a valuable and important resource.



Teacher notes have been adapted from those supplied at the back of the book. Further recommended reading is also listed there too.

Themes:

- Loneliness
- Not fitting in
- Being left out

Discussion Points & Activities:

When the bell rings for recess, Micah and J.T. take turns choosing kids for their kickball team.

- How did Micah and J.T. choose players for their teams? Was it a fair way to select players? Why or why not?
- Have you ever tried to join a group, game or activity and the other kids wouldn't let you? If yes, how did that make you feel? Have you ever intentionally done this to other kids? If yes, why?

"I'm so glad you guys had fun!" says Madison. Everybody did except Brian. He wasn't invited.

- When Madison and her friends talked about her birthday party in front of Brian, do you think they were just being thoughtless or were they being mean to Brian on purpose? Explain.
- Was there a better way for Madison to handle the situation when she and her friends started to talk about her party in front of those kids that weren't invited?
- Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation as Brian, with kids talking about the fun things they've done with each other in front of you and you weren't included or invited? If yes, how did that make you feel?

He sits there wondering which is worse - being laughed at or feeling invisible.

- How many examples in this story can you find that show Brian's invisibility?
- Which do you think is worse - being laughed at or feeling invisible? Explain.
- What did Brian do to help Justin feel better after J.T. and the other kids made fun of the food he was eating?

Maybe, just maybe, Brian's not so invisible after all.

- How many kids did it take in this story to help Brian begin to feel less invisible?
- What specifically did Justin do to make Brian feel less invisible?
- Are there kids in your class, grade or school who you see being treated as if they are invisible? If yes, what could you do to make them feel more valued and appreciated?