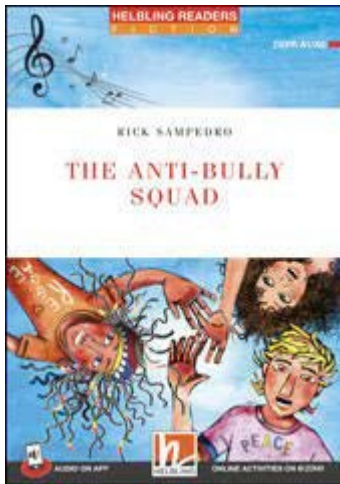


BOOK REVIEW



The name of the book we have read in class is “The Anti-Bully Squad”. It’s a story about friendship, written by Rick Sampedro. The book is about three teenagers who unite against bullying at their school. Heston High used to be a peaceful place until Brian and Mark, the two bullies, arrive. Up to now, bullying wasn’t an official problem because the victims didn’t report the bullies to the teachers. Arjun, the smallest and youngest boy in class got hurt because of Brian and Mark and now Tara, Tom and Ziggy want to stop the bullies. Tom always walks Arjun home, but he knows that this isn’t a long-term solution. He wants to stop the bullies forever. So, the three teenagers decide to form the Anti-Bully Squad. The three friends have much in common. They all love football and Reggae and Tom and Ziggy are also football players in the school’s team. However, the bullies find out about the Anti-Bully Squad and try to stop the friends. Brian and Mark engage in pranks and mean actions, for example, they ruin the jerseys for one of the football matches and they lock Tom up in a shed. But at a certain point it gets too far... They burn Toms bike and the shed in his garden, with fuel cans in it, and it catches fire. Tom is so shocked that he faints and wakes up in hospital. Now he has to tell his parents about the incident. They tried to report everything to the police, but they had no evidence and no witness until now: The police find a lighter next to the bike. In addition, the friends create a network on Facebook and on the day of the final match of the regional school football tournament, they have a plan to expose the bullies. They succeed. In the end, Tom receives a T-Shirt with the message: “Never feel too small, a single mosquito can drive you crazy!”

I surprisingly liked the book. I enjoyed reading it and I think it was easy to understand, also because there’s a glossary for words you may not know. I liked the characters and the diversity they represent and the way they solved the problem. I also liked the ending of the book and the message on Toms T-shirt. All in all, I think it’s a great book for everyone and it’s important to talk about bullying. I also think it’s a great book for schools to inform and help victims to fight bullying. I’d rate it 4/5 stars, although it sometimes was a bit too easy and maybe a little bit childish.

L. W., 2A (2022/23)