

# THE RECESS QUEEN

by Alexis O'Neill, illustrated by Laura Huliska-Beith. Scholastic 2002. ISBN 0-439-20637-5

## Teacher Idea Sheet

Questions or more ideas? E-mail the author at [AlexisInCA@aol.com](mailto:AlexisInCA@aol.com)

### LITERATURE / LANGUAGE ARTS

**Imagine** - Finish this story: "One day, Mean Jean moved to my school -----"

**Write** — Lots of words in THE RECESS QUEEN are made up. Familiar words are strung together in new ways to express a mood or action (angry, stormy, peaceful, friendly, etc.) Make up a string of words that express a mood and what actions a character might do when he or she is in that mood.

**Use** — Strong verbs make strong, active stories. Use at least three strong verbs in sentences. Here are some examples: swing, kick, bounce, growl, howl, scare, run, charge, snarl, grab, figure, race, chase, grab, bolt, thunder, hop, jump, skip, gape, stare, sing, call, whizz, slap, spin, flap, giggle, romp, and ring. Now, find those verbs and see how they were used in THE RECESS QUEEN.

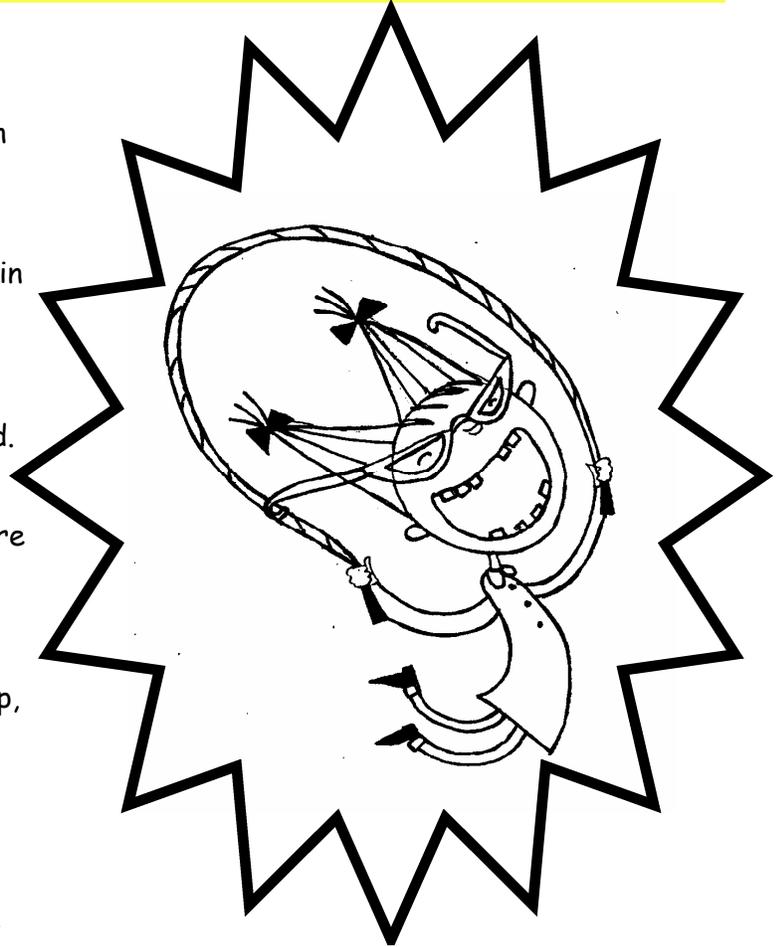
**Read** — Enjoy other books on related topics such as bullies, strong girls, peacemakers, playgrounds, conflict resolution, friendship. (See page 2 of the Teachers Idea Sheet for some suggestions.)

### MUSIC

**Sing or Chant** Jump rope songs are fun to sing or chant. They are usually passed down by word-of-mouth. Ask your family members or teachers if they remember any from their childhood. Clap hands to the beat as you practice. Make up your own chant and teach it to a friend. You could write a new chant or new words to an old chant.

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**Play** - Invite someone that you don't normally play with to do something with you the next time you go to recess. Try these games: *jumprope, ball games, hopscotch, marbles, jacks.*



From *The Recess Queen* sketch dummy illus. by Laura Huliska-Beith

### DRAMA

**Act** — Perform THE RECESS QUEEN in Readers' Theater style. Assign the following parts: Narrator, Mean Jean, Katie Sue, Kids (you decide how many). You may want to use hats or glasses to indicate different characters. Put lots of expression in your voice when you read!

**ESL** - Have students, in unison, repeat the action lines, "Hammer 'em, slammer 'em, kitz and kajammer 'em. Push 'em and smooch 'em and lollapaloosh 'em" when they occur in the story. Add an action to match each word or phrase.

*More ideas on the back!*

# THE RECESS QUEEN Teacher Idea Sheet

## SOCIAL STUDIES

**Observe** - Study your classmates. List at least three things that make each person distinctive in a positive way. Share ideas on the importance of diversity.

**Discuss** - What makes a person a good friend? What makes a person a bully?

**Conflict resolution** — Compose a letter to your principal telling about a problem on the playground. In your letter, name three ways that you could help solve the problem, on your own, peacefully.

**Celebrate** -  
*Good Manners Month*—September  
*Diversity Awareness Month*—October  
*National Playground Safety Week* — April

## ART

**Cut and paste** - Use paints, fabric scraps, cut paper and other found object to make a mixed-media creation.

**Create** - Using your favorite medium (pencil, markers, paints, collage, etc.) create a portrait of yourself doing your favorite thing on the playground.

**Compare** - Compare the art in THE RECESS QUEEN with art in other picture books. Can you tell what materials the artist used to create the illustrations?

**Make** - Make props for Readers' Theater: a crown, purple glasses, red glasses, a cowboy hat and other bits of costumes for the other playground kids.

## MATH

**Graph** - Graph your class jumping rope. Make a chart of names. Take turns jumping. Record how many jumps each person makes. Then try jumping in pairs. Record those numbers too.

**Counting challenge** - When you jump rope, count by 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s etc. See how high of a score you can make.

## BOOKS

**Read** - Here are some books about bullies & conflict resolution. Choose at least one. Read it. Write a summary of the story. Include the names of the characters, what the problem was and how the problem was solved. Then tell if you make any connection between the story and your life.



Bottner, Barbara. **Bootsie Barker Bites**.  
Illus. Peggy Rathman.

Caseley, Judith. **Bully**.

Keats, Ezra Jack. **Goggles**.

Lester, Helen. **Hooway for Wodney Wat**.  
Illus. Lynn Munsinger.

Lovell, Patty. **Stand Tall, Molly Lou Melon**.  
Illus. David Catrow.

Meddaugh, Susan. **Martha Walks the Dog**.

Moss, Marissa. **Amelia Tales Command**.

Nickle, John. **The Ant Bully**.

O'Neill, Alexis. **The Recess Queen**. Illus.  
Laura Huliska-Beith.

Pilkey, Dav. **The Hallo-Wiener**.

Polacco, Patricia. **Mr. Lincoln's Way**.

Simon, Francesca. **Hugo & the Bully Frogs**.  
Illus. Caroline Church.

Williams, Linda. **The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything**. Illus. Megan Lloyd.