

Essay on the book of Nick Hornby *About a boy*: The problem of bullying among modern children

Modern children can be violent and cruel. That is why Nick Hornby raises the issue of bullying at school. It is important to discuss the problem and find the solution.

Key words: bullying, school, young abusers, adults, solution of the problem

Современные дети могут быть жестокими и бессердечными. Поэтому Ник Хорнби поднимает проблему буллинга в школе. Важно обсудить проблему и найти решение.

Ключевые слова: буллинг, школа, юные абьюзеры, взрослые, решение проблемы

At the first sight *About a Boy*, written by N.Hornby might seem just a light reading, but in fact, the author addresses multitude long-standing problems inherent in the modern society: relationship between a parent and a child, devaluation of mental disorders.. In the Nick Hornby's world adults are immature and children are serious. Nevertheless, in my opinion, the most carefully described by the writer problem, is the problem of bullying.

Problematic relationships between students -harassing or bullying- acts of aggression against others children, when there was an imbalance of power between aggressors and their victims. The aggression has a tendency to repeat. The scene from the book, when a group of children from Marcus's class is attacking him, calling him fuzzy and asking what he is singing is very revealing. Marcus ignored them, but his behavior egged the offenders even more and they set Marcus up, accusing him of being thief. In an article of Natalia Grishaeva about bullying at school, the authoress writes, that exactly the verbal badgering, insulting and cruel tricks are the most popular methods, chosen by young abusers.

A lot of children, making a mockery of others, use a daily humiliation to assert themselves. Sometimes it is important for someone to get a favor of leader- bully. That is why, Nick and Mark, who Marcus thought were his friends, stop to hang out with him to avoid becoming victims of perpetrators. Marcus understands that he is a problem for his new acquaintances, but kids acted awfully: they left Marcus, showing with their act, that they are mental abusers.

It is worth noting the role of adults in such a situation. So, social worker Mrs. Morrison asks Marcus to stay away from bullies, his mother Fiona reckons, that her son just did not have time to get used to new school and the literature teacher Ms. Maquire calls Marcus «a little potty» in front of the class in order to gain pupils' trust. But when you ignore the problem, you cannot solve it. Clearly, the problem of bullying must be fought. Bullying is the destroying behavior of «stronger», aimed at the «weaker» and it is never fair. It is essential to collect an information about bullying at schools and to question students (psychologists should make and use special questionnaires for this purpose). It would be a good idea to organize «Committee for the

Prevention of Bullying». This organization must become an island of safety, where a child can share such a problem and rely on the support of peers and teachers.

In conclusion it should be noticed, that a problem of school bullying is very hard to eradicate in the moment, but if all parties of education problems (teachers, students, parents) look into the problem, then the possibility that children will avoid conflicts in the future is very high.

References

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