“Perhaps the most important skill one should acquire to be ready for any college or any career, to be a productive part of any community, is kindness. Lester and Reba remind us of the critical importance of teaching kindness in Bullying Hurts and then they do better than that: they take us into classrooms and show us, step-by-step and book-by-book, how we can use literature to help students become the empathetic, caring, kind people this world desperately needs. You won’t just read this book, you’ll use it.”

—Kylene Beers
Recent research shows that punishing students who bully is not enough, that we must begin every child’s education by establishing relationship skills and building empathy among students. Lester and Reba recommend a series of read aloud books that focus on our shared humanity and can be used on day one of Kindergarten and throughout the elementary years. *Bullying Hurts* guides students toward increased understandings about bullying behavior with a framework of five recommended read-alouds and accompanying lessons that help you:

- define and discuss the important lessons about bullying embedded in each book
- develop literacy skills and strategies, conversation, critical thinking, character analysis, and reflection
- connect read aloud experiences to the anchor standards for reading in the Common Core.

“We believe focused read aloud experiences with carefully selected children’s literature followed by guided conversations is one way you can create a climate in your classroom, school, or district where bullying is not an accepted or rewarded behavior. A climate where an individual’s humanity and human dignity trump any difference(s) and kindness is the order of the day.” —Lester Laminack & Reba Wadsworth


*Lester Laminack* is a full-time writer, consultant, and staff developer, and Professor Emeritus of literacy education at Western Carolina University. He is the author or coauthor of numerous books including *The Writing Workshop: Working Through the Hard Parts, Learning Under the Influence of Language and Literature, Reading Aloud Across the Curriculum, Cracking Open the Author’s Craft,* and *Unwrapping the Read Aloud.* Lester is also the author of six children’s books including *Three Hens and a Peacock,* a 2012 Children’s Choice Book of the Year Award winner.

*Reba M. Wadsworth,* a former elementary classroom teacher, guidance counselor and principal, now works as an independent consultant. She currently serves as a national consultant for Booksource, Inc. and Developmental Studies, conducting