

Playground Heroes by Carol Franks Randall

<https://carolfranksrandall.com/discussion-tips-for-parents-and-teachers/>

Discussion Questions

Playground Heroes was written to help empower children to stand up to bullies whenever it is safe to do so. As this story demonstrates, bullies are often devious, and strike when no adult is watching them.

It is certainly not easy to confront bullies, whether it is done directly like Zoë and Elle did in this story, or whether adults are involved. It is imperative that schools, families, community organizations, faith organizations, etc. work collaboratively to give children the tools to fight back when they or their friends are bullied, and to implement programs that address this issue directly.

After reading **Playground Heroes**, you might ask your child or students the questions below. **They may need to be modified to match the developmental level of the children, and are meant to begin a conversation. The children will probably present a point of view you hadn't thought of, so enjoy the exchange of ideas!**

- Why do you think school is so challenging for Charlie? Have you ever had a classmate who has learning challenges?
- In **Playground Heroes** the bullies are very devious. Have you ever encountered bullies like the ones in this book?
- Should Zoë and Elle have gone to get Nana and Grampa or should they have stood up for Charlie themselves? Explain your answer.
- Have you read **Jamal and Me**? If so, are there any ways that **Jamal and Me** and **Playground Heroes** are similar?
- Do you think it is easy to stand up to bullies? What would give you the courage to stand up for someone who was being bullied?
- Zoë helped Charlie with his work when she could. What other things could his classmates do to help him?
- We know that the bullies did not like being challenged. Why do you think they

walked away?

- Sometimes illustrations tell the reader even more than the words on the page. Let's look at the illustrations together. Which ones did you like best? Please explain.

- Do you think Zoë should tell her teacher about what happened on the playground? Why or why not?