



SRIKAR DUDIPALA

is a 6th grader at Copley-Fairlawn Middle School. He likes to play video games and soccer, and also enjoys participating in Academic Challenge and Science Olympiad. He has high hopes to become a neurosurgeon.

There is only one thing in the world that kills silently and without any pity. Hate. Hate used in words is that one thing. Bullying is a big problem in every school across the USA. It can be verbal or physical. But no matter what type it is, bullying is a big problem. The problem that I will be addressing is mild, but it got more serious over time.

That year, a new kid named Sam* joined our school. He was overweight, so he was an easy target for bullies. Every year we had a mile long race called the Turkey Trot. Sam was really slow and he came in last. All the other kids picked on him and called him names like “super slow Sam”. It was kind of like watching the hare tease the tortoise because he was slow in the old Aesop’s Fables book, except this was a lot more serious.

At first the picking had minor effects, but over time Sam became discouraged. He always had a frown on his face instead of the silly smile he usually wore. I got shocked because I finally realized how damaging bullying could be. So I stood up for Sam and we became friends. But then all the other kids didn’t really like me.

That year, we had an assembly at school called Project Love. They taught us about being kind and treating each other with respect. I learned a lot from that assembly on how people can just simply stop believing in themselves if they were bullied for a long time. I was determined to not let that happen to Sam, so I took action. I went to our school counselor and suggested that we could meet once a month and have Project Love lunches. At the lunches, we learned to be kind and stop bullying. The other kids accepted Sam and he became back to normal since kids were not picking on him anymore. Today, Sam has a lot of friends and is one of the most popular kids in the school. There are also less kids getting picked on by bullies.

I was pretty proud of my work because people had learned not to be unkind to each other. Sam had also become a happy kid that wasn’t getting bullied every day. I hope that you learned that bullying is no small matter and it has to stop. If we work together we can destroy bullying forever. Together, we can stop the hate.

**Name has been changed*