



**BRIAN LUCK**

is a 6th grader at Copley-Fairlawn Middle School.

He loves reading and all sorts of books—mysteries, adventures and especially comedies. Music is also a big part of his life. Brian plays piano, trombone and is in sixth grade choir. He is also active on the swim team. He made an award-winning video for a church contest and aspires to become a movie writer.

Imagine having a great time on the last day of school, only to have it ruined by witnessing an extreme act of physical abuse.

You now know how I felt when I saw Jonathan\*, an under-the-radar student, getting knocked over and kicked. Many of the bullies I knew from class, some were even my friends. But as I watched from the second-story window, I wasn't sure of that anymore. I knew that I had to do something. Anything. So I told Mrs. Brown\*, my teacher, about the incident that was occurring. But in the ten seconds that it took me to turn around and report, the bullies had dispersed. The only evidence left on the crime scene was Jonathan, leaning against a nearby tree.

These images still return to me, even though this happened a year ago. Every time I see Jonathan, I think of how much he's changed since the beating. He doesn't talk much now and when he does, words of hatred usually spill out. Because of the severity of the bullying I saw, I decided to take action.

First, I will warn others about bullying and intolerance. I will share the "Story of Jonathan" to my friends, which will help them open their eyes and see that bullying really is happening and it really is serious. Then, I will find a teacher willing to start an "Anti-bullying Poster Club," where students can give up one recess per month to set aside their differences and make works of art, against bullying. Finally, I will talk to my teachers about speaking out. Guest speakers can come in and inform us what to do, how to stop, the effects of intolerant situations.

I really hope that everyone will realize that bullying is wrong and we need to take action. If we don't, where will our world be in the future? Will there really be a World War III over intolerance? I hope not.

One of my teachers once told me that it can be too late to help one person, but one person can influence everyone. If everyone tries to be that one person, then, and only then, will our planet be free of intolerance.

*\*Names have been changed*