

# DEAD MAX COMIX

BULLY FOR YOU!

## Discussion Guide

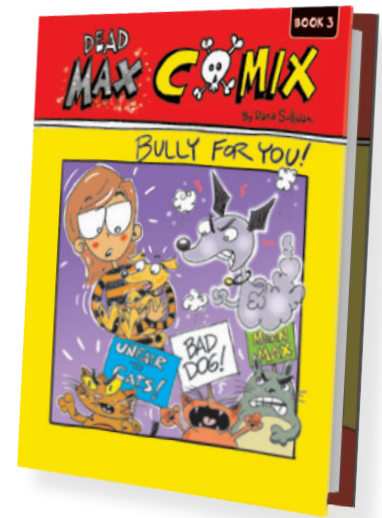
By Dana Sullivan



1. The book begins with Derrick spending time with both Max and his new dog, Bennie. How do you think his relationship differs with each of them?
2. Derrick tells Coach that making comics about his problems helps him feel better. What do you do to feel better when you're having problems? Does doing so help you solve the problems?
3. Mr. Flores uses the word "metaphor" on page 13. What is a metaphor? Can you write an example of one?
4. Some kids tell the drummer of Derrick's band that she looks like a boy, while others tell Derrick he looks like a girl. Why do you think they say those things? Is it right to associate certain features with boys or girls?
5. The Muslim kids at Derrick's school are bullied because of their religion. What are some other things that people get bullied for? Why do you think some people bully those who are different from them?
6. On page 20, Derrick says that the "Land of the Free" isn't always free for everyone. His friend suggests that Derrick is surprised about this because he is "white" and "a guy." What do you think she means by this?
7. Derrick's friends refer to the Spud-Man comic as a "stereotype". What is a stereotype? How are stereotypes harmful?
8. How does the Super Pet Poster Party help to bring all of the kids together?
9. On page 60, we learn more about the kid who wrote the anti-Muslim graffiti. What do we learn that helps explain why he or she did it?
10. What are some things the graffiti artist could have done differently to help him or her deal with the problems at home?
11. What do you think the overall message of the book is? What did you learn from reading it?

## About Book 3

Derrick finally feels like he's getting the hang of Middle School. He's in a band with his best friends and his dogs Bennie and Max are getting along. Even his Dead Max comics and advice columns are a hit, until Max's cat-hating ways start raising hackles with his cat-loving readers. Then when Derrick's cartoons protesting racism backfire, the Muslim kids turn against him and the paper is in danger of being shut down, along with Derrick's cartooning career. Is Derrick a racist bully or trying to help some friends fight hatred? Luckily, Dead Max and some fishy characters are on the case, sleuthing out the real culprit and reuniting the students of Zachary Taylor Middle School with some long, lost friends.



## About the series

Middle school can be survival of the “fitting-in” at best. In Dead Max Comix, Derrick discovers that his secrets aren't as scary as he thought, and that he's not much different than other kids. Dead Max Comix is a light-hearted touch at accepting yourself and not letting something as trivial as your dog getting killed by a car or your parents divorcing get in the way of finding your own way.

—Every socially isolated cartoonist kid needs an invisible friend.

Derrick has found his in his dead dog Max.”

—David Small, Caldecott-winning author of *Home After Dark*, *Stitches*, *Bloom*, and more.

## About the Author-Illustrator

Dana Sullivan grew up in Southern California drawing on every piece of paper he could find. He kept at it until someone finally published his books. He's written and illustrated dozens. He even teaches picture book and graphic novel classes. Dana now lives near Seattle. You can see more of his work at [www.danajsullivan.com](http://www.danajsullivan.com).

### Book Details

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-63440-864-6

Softcover ISBN: 978-1-63440-865-3

E-book ISBN: 978-1-63440-866-0

BISAC: JUV 008000, JUV008110, JUV008050

64 pages, Lexile: 300