

Bailey Bear and the Big Bully

How One Brave Little Bark Changed the Whole Game

A Lesson in Standing Together and Finding Your Power

By CJ Cornell

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*For every child who has ever felt small —
and for every friend who stood close enough
to help them feel brave.*

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The park was my favorite place
in the whole wide world.



Friends called from
every corner.



My paws could
hardly wait.



At the park, there was always room
for one more.

For a little dog, I had a BIG bark.
Mostly, I used it for fun.





Then the gate rattled.

One bounce got away—
and so did I.





Then a shadow made everything darker.

"Hi!" I said.
"Want to play?"



"Big dogs play," Barnaby said.
"Little dogs watch."

My tail stopped wagging.



For one second, I
thought he might let
me have the ball.



Then—THUMP!
Uh-oh. I didn't feel
safe anymore.



My belly went tight.
This wasn't a game.



I was so scared,
my paws couldn't move.

I found one tiny opening—and took it.



My heart pounded all the way.



I needed somewhere safe.
So I ran to my person.



My heart was still pounding.
But there,
I could breathe again.

Maybe there wasn't room for me after all.



I felt small and alone.

Everywhere we turned,
the fun got smaller.
Soon, even my favorite park felt scary.



My pack found me.



I still didn't know
what came next, but
I didn't have to
figure it out alone.



SNIFF. SNIFF.
Something smelled like... fun.

And there it was—
THE GREATEST STICK EVER!



Soon we were laughing again.
Barnaby had every ball, but not our game.





Then the fun went quiet.
My belly went tight again.

He didn't want the stick.
He wanted us to move.



I was still scared.
But now it was happening to my friends, too.



I wanted to run away.
But this time, I stayed.



"We're playing here," I said.
"You don't get to make us leave."

My friends were with me.
I had one more thing to say.



My paws trembled.
I took one breath.





BOOF!

That's enough!

Everything went quiet.



My legs were still shaking.
But I was still standing.

My bark hadn't made me bigger.



But Barnaby and his friends
couldn't boss us around anymore.

"I don't want to play like this anymore," Kona said.



Then she stepped away from Barnaby's group.



Kona stopped.
"Can I play?" she asked.

"There's room for one more," I said.





Barnaby still had the ball.
But he didn't get to decide
who belonged.



The park felt big again.
I was still small, but I knew I
belonged there.

And my tail could not stop wagging.





THE BAILEY BEAR PLAYBOOK

Four Brave Moves for Tough Moments

THIS PLAYBOOK BELONGS TO PACK MEMBER: _____

1. FIND YOUR SAFE SPOT

If something feels scary, unsafe, or just plain wrong, step away and find a safer place.
Getting safe is a brave move.

2. FIND YOUR PACK

You don't have to handle tough moments alone.
Find a friend, teacher, parent, or another safe grown-up who will listen and help.
Your pack helps you feel safe, strong, and supported.

3. CHANGE THE GAME

You don't have to stay in a situation that feels wrong.
Walk away. Move somewhere safer. Find another way forward.
Someone else doesn't get to decide where you belong.

4. FIND YOUR VOICE

When you feel safe, say what you need:
"Stop." "That's enough." "I don't like that." "I need help."
And remember: If one grown-up doesn't help, tell another. Keep telling until someone helps.

BAILEY'S BRAVE RULE

**If something feels wrong, you can get safe, find your pack, and tell someone.
You never have to handle a tough moment alone.**

Meet the Real Bailey Bear!



Bailey is a rescue Pomeranian, best buddy, and the inspiration for every Bailey Bear adventure.

He may be small—but he has a very big heart, a very loud bark, and plenty of stories to tell.

Discover all of Bailey's adventures at
BaileyBearBooks.com

BaileyBearBooks.com

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR PARENTS & EDUCATORS

Talking About Bullying, Courage, Belonging, and Standing Together

Bailey’s story doesn’t have just one lesson—and these questions don’t have just one right answer. Start by listening: “What did you notice?” “When did something start to feel wrong?” “What do you think changed?”

FEELING SCARED & GETTING SAFE

- Bailey’s belly tightened, his paws froze, and his heart pounded.
- How did Bailey’s body tell him something didn’t feel right?
- Bailey moved somewhere safer instead of confronting Barnaby. Was he scared, brave—or both?
- Who could you go to if someone made you feel scared, uncomfortable, or unsafe?
- There is more than one way to be brave.

THE POWER OF THE PACK

- Bailey’s friends didn’t chase, bite, or fight Barnaby. They stayed beside Bailey.
- Why did that make a difference?
- What could you do if someone were being picked on, pushed out, or left alone?
- How could you show someone, “You’re not alone”?

CHANGE THE GAME

- Barnaby had the tennis balls—but that didn’t mean he got to control everyone else’s fun.
- What changed when Bailey and his friends found another way to play?
- What could “change the game” mean when someone is trying to control a game, group, or situation?
- Someone else doesn’t get to decide where you belong.



DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR PARENTS & EDUCATORS

FINDING YOUR VOICE

- Bailey was still shaking when he found his big BOOF!
- Can someone be afraid and brave at the same time?
- What could you say if something felt wrong?
- Practice together: “Stop.” “That’s enough.” “I don’t like that.” “Come with me.” “I need help.”
- Finding your voice can also mean walking away or telling someone you trust.

MAKING DIFFERENT CHOICES

- Barnaby makes hurtful choices. Kona follows along at first—and later chooses differently.
- What did Kona do that showed she was making a better choice?
- Why did it matter that she asked, “Can I play?” and waited for an answer?
- What we do matters. And we can choose what we do next.

TRY IT TOGETHER

- “What could you do if a friend said, ‘I don’t feel safe’?”
- “What could you do if someone asked you to do something that felt wrong or uncomfortable?”
- “Who could you tell if you needed help?”
- Then help children name several trusted adults.

BAILEY’S BRAVE RULE

- If something feels wrong: GET SAFE. FIND YOUR PACK. TELL SOMEONE.
- If the first person doesn’t help, tell another. KEEP TELLING UNTIL SOMEONE HELPS.
- You never have to handle a scary, uncomfortable, or unsafe situation alone.

WHEN THE STORY CONNECTS TO REAL LIFE

- Listen. Take it seriously. Help the child get safe. Follow through.
- Don’t make a child responsible for confronting or fixing a situation that frightens them.
- If a child describes bullying, threats, unwanted behavior, abuse, or another safety concern, take appropriate action and follow the safeguarding or reporting requirements that apply to your role and location.

About the Author



Christopher-John “CJ” Cornell, PhD is an author, entrepreneur, educator, and longtime champion of people with big ideas.

As a Professor, CJ taught entrepreneurship and digital media at the largest universities in the world and has spent much of his career helping people find the confidence to create, lead, and make their voices heard.

But one of his favorite teachers has four paws.

Bailey, his rescue Pomeranian, inspired the Bailey Bear series and its stories about courage, friendship, belonging, kindness, and finding your voice.

CJ Cornell lives in Arizona and continues to write Bailey Bear adventures inspired by the surprisingly big lessons that can come from one very small dog.

Discover more Bailey Bear adventures, activities, and resources:

BaileyBearBooks.com
amazon.com/author/cjcornell