



Big Mean Mike

by Michelle Knudsen

Macho meets cuddly! Everything about Big Mean Mike is big and mean from his big mean car to the big mean boots he wears. However, early in the story Big Mean Mike meets a tiny fuzzy bunny. A humorous story unfolds that teaches Big Mean Mike lessons about friendship and being himself. You will laugh as you investigate the boldly colored illustrations and the humorous text as Mike interacts with the bunnies and his macho friends. Discussions following the story can be about the lessons that Mike learns. Your listener and you may discover a theme that is personal to you such as: bullying or building self esteem. The theme that occurred to me was “Don’t judge a book by its cover.”

The reviews that I read were overwhelmingly positive about the enjoyment that both children and adults had as they read and reread the story.

The Reading Comprehension Best Practice that is highlighted in the guide is **Answering Questions as We Read**. When you discuss the illustrations during the First Reading, think of questions that the text might answer for you. One question that occurred to my grandson was, “How did the bunnies get in the car?” As the reader reads the text during the Second Reading, the brain will look for the answers. Having a focus as you read aids comprehension.