



With Common Core Standards

About the book

Send is a novel by Patty Blount about a teen's experiences with bullying and school violence. The novel is intended for mature teens ages 13 and up and because it includes scenes that feature profanity, underage drinking, and sex, should be read with parents/teachers as partners.

This guide was designed to help you teach *Send* in your classrooms.

It's senior year at yet another new school for eighteen-year-old Dan Ellison. After an incident that took place when he was thirteen, Dan was sent to juvenile detention and has since changed his name in an attempt to put the past behind him. But his first day at his new school presents him with a difficult situation -- a huge jock is about to beat up a defenseless smaller kid. Now Dan has to make a hard decision -- walk away or try to prevent the sort of tragedy he once caused?



Themes in *Send*



Send covers themes of bullying, being a man, guilt, forgiveness, school violence, technology, friendship and family loyalty, and mental health.

What is bullying?

Answer One:

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. (stopbullying.gov)

Answer Two:

A bully is a person who purposely tries to hurt others. (kzoo.edu)

Answer Three:

Bullying involves deliberately and repeatedly attempting to hurt, scare or exclude someone. (kidsmatter.edu.au)



Anticipation Table

Ask your students to indicate if they agree (+) or disagree (-) with each of the following statements before they read *SEND*. Repeat the activity after reading and discuss opinions that have changed.

Before Reading	After Reading	Statements
		Bullying is just something I have to deal with by myself.
		There is nothing I can do to stop a bully.
		Bullies are bad, cruel, or mean kids.
		Bullying is a risk factor that can lead to school violence.
		Sending Dan to juvenile detention was a fair punishment for his bullying crime.
		I can forgive Dan for what he did to Liam Murphy.
		Technology makes it easy to bully others.
		If I see someone threatening another, it is better to stand by and watch than to intervene.

Explore *SEND* through Reading, Writing, Research

1. Think of an enormous mistake that you made that (could have) radically changed your life. How did you forgive yourself?
2. Discuss a time when a friend or family member did something that required your forgiveness. How were you able to forgive this person? Explain your feelings.
3. Think of the labels we give people like *bully*, *dork*, *air-head*, and so on. How do these labels affect our interactions with the people we've assigned them to? How do the various names Dan calls himself affect him?
4. Do you think it's possible for people to *not* know they're bullies? Why or why not?
5. Rewrite a scene from another character's point of view
6. Technology played an important role in Dan's bullying of Liam Murphy. How will what you've read in *SEND* change the ways you use technology?
7. Dan tells his therapist that good people do good things and bad people do bad things, but his therapist says that's simplistic. Do you agree? Why or why not? What is it you believe makes a person *good* or *bad*?
8. In the opening scene, we're introduced to the character of Kenny, who Dan describes as himself stuck forever at age thirteen. What do you think is Kenny's purpose in Dan's mind? If you knew about Kenny, how would you help Dan?
9. Discuss Dan's family members and their roles throughout the story. Were they supportive? Why or why not?
10. If you were a judge, how would you treat and punish the crime of bullying?

Teaching Ideas

- Journaling
- Debate Team
- Arrange Skype or in-person visit with Patty Blount (see pattyblount.com for info)
- Class Discussion
- Research topics presented in the novel
- Vocabulary Lesson

Common Core Standards

Correlates to Common Core Standard Reading Literature: Key Ideas and Details R.L. 7.2.; Speaking and Listening: Comprehension and Collaboration S.L. 7.1., S.L. 8.1., S.L. 9-10.1., S.L. 7.2., S.L. 8.2., S.L.9-10.2., S.L. 7.3., S.L. 8.3., S.L. 9-10.3

Correlates to Common Core Standard Reading Literature: Speaking and Listening: Comprehension and Collaboration S.L. 7.1., S.L. 8.1., S.L. 9-10.1., S.L. 7.2., S.L. 8.2., S.L. 9-10.2., S.L. 7.3., S.L. 8.3., S.L.9- 10.3. Writing: Text Types and Purposes W. 7.1., W. 8.1., W. 9-10.1., W. 7.2. W. 8.2., W. 9-10.2., W. 7.3, W. 8.3, W. 9-10.3.



Making Thematic Connections

Throughout *Send*, various themes are presented including forgiveness, guilt, duty, loyalty, family and friendship, being a man, and taking responsibility. Select a theme and find examples throughout the novel that illustrate it. Then, find examples where another theme appears to be in direct opposition to the one you chose.

For example, throughout *Send*, Dan and Pop barely speak. The reason for Pop's anger toward Dan is finally

revealed in Chapter 25: My Name is Ken and we learn that the themes of *duty* and *taking responsibility* oppose the theme of *family* -- at least in terms of how Dan's grandfather interprets *family*.

In Chapter 22, Nothin' But a Waste of Oxygen, Dan is able to stop what could have been a horrible tragedy. He makes the decision to squeal to Brandon's parents, putting the themes of *friendship* squarely up against *taking responsibility* and *duty* -- in this case, a *duty to respond*.



Visit YouTube and view the book trailer video for *Send* created by JWhiz Productions.

How would you create your own book trailer video? What characteristics would you look for in your actors? What scenes do you think are crucial to show?



Create *Send*-inspired playlists

Music is important in life, especially in Dan's life. Throughout *Send*, he references his favorite songs. What favorite songs do you have that represent Dan's story?

Curriculum Connections

Language Arts

Define and find examples in the novel for each of the following terms:

- * Irony
- * Allusion
- * Foreshadowing
- * Flashback
- * Imagery
- * Pathos
- * Ethos
- * Logos

Social Studies

Investigate actual bullying incidents in the news. Report the ways in which each incident was punished. Was it treated as a crime? Were punishments consistent? Why or why not?

Technology

What role does technology play in bullying? Define terms like catfishing, doxing, sextortion, flaming, trolling, impersonation.

What did they say?

What's your favorite Send quote? Which character said it? Why does it matter to you?

"He made a mistake. It doesn't mean he's a bad person." Dr. Philips

Debate Teams

Use a theme or journal question from Page 1 to form debate teams to argue for and against it. For example:

1. I have a moral duty to respond when I witness someone bullying someone else.
2. Social networks should be outlawed because they cause bullying.

3. Family is required to forgive you no matter what you've done.
4. Bullying should be a felony that is punishable by ____.

Mental Health

If you discovered a friend was seeing and talking to people who aren't there, how could you help?

About that ending...

Can you forgive Dan? What if you were Julie or Mr. Murphy, can you forgive Dan now?

How would you write Dan and Julie's ending?

Visit "Dan's Blog" at pattyblount.com/blogs to read The Missing Epilogue after you finish *Send*.