

Stay Away from Rat Boy

Laurie Lears

Red Hansen, Illustrator

(March 2009)

\$16.99 (32pp)

978-0-8075-6789-0

Tyler is the kid in the class who pushes, snatches, and laughs at others' misfortune. He doesn't like anyone and no one likes him. Or is it that he doesn't like anyone because no one likes him. Enter Snowball. Sitting in the Time-out Chair in the back of the room one day, Tyler meets the class rat. Tyler stuck his tongue out and made a nasty comment, but the rat, instead of fleeing, scolding, tattling, or punishing, moved closer and sniffed him with her pink, quivering nose. *Stay Away from Rat Boy* is highly recommended as a self-knowledge tool for middle reader classrooms. The illustrations are a lively collage of still photography and hand drawings combined on a computer.

HEATHER SHAW (June 16, 2009)

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