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## How Can We Help Prevent Teasing?

Allenton, Michigan - We live in a world where school shootings are occurring too frequently. There are numerous reasons that children are hurting and often killing their peers. Teasing and bullying are a few reasons. How do we teach children that teasing and bullying is unacceptable? Is there a way to help children understand that we need to treat others the way we would like to be treated? If we could try to instill these values at a younger age, we may be able to discourage name-calling when children are older. Teasing occurs at all ages, but is more prevalent in middle school. We should start teaching children not to tease, and to treat others the way they want to be treated in preschool. Books are a successful way to provide this lesson to children, according to Dana Lehman, author of *Adventures at Walnut Grove: A Lesson about Teasing*. Like many parents, she is concerned with the increase of violence, not only in our schools, but everywhere. She wrote this book in the hope that it will make children think twice before they decide to tease their peers.

*Adventures at Walnut Grove: A Lesson about Teasing* is a story about Sammy, a squirrel, who is teased because he has eyes like a raccoon. Sammy knows that name-calling is not nice, but his friends have a valuable lesson to learn. The name-caller soon becomes the one being teased. *Adventures at Walnut Grove: A Lesson about Teasing* is a story about friends that learn to treat others the way they would like to be treated.

Dana Lehman currently resides in Allenton, Michigan with her husband, and their two children. Dana graduated from Macomb Community College with an Associates Degree. She has been a stay-at-home mom for six years. Dana's children continuously inspire her to write new stories.

Dana was fortunate to have her mother-in-law, Judy Lehman, illustrate her book using watercolors. Judy currently lives in Hubbard Lake, Michigan, with her husband George. She has been an artist for thirty-five years. Judy is a childhood cancer survivor. She is donating her royalties to *St. Judes Children's Hospital*.

Dana and Judy are currently working on their second book titled ***I Double Dare You!*** In this story, Sammy's cousin's Silly and Sassy, come to Walnut Grove for a visit. Silly and Sassy are always getting into trouble. They play hide-n-seek, have frog races, and play dare or double dare. How does this lead to jumping off a bridge? You will have to read the story to find out how everyone learns to take responsibility for his or her own actions. They will also discover that it's not always wise to follow your friends. Available in May of 2008.

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