

Strong Mike  
By Izmahel N.

This is a story about a boy named Mike, who more than anything wanted to have a good school year and not be bullied. The minute he stepped on the school bus, he knew that this school year wasn't going to be any different than last year. Seiko, Greg, Ralphie and Henry sat in the back of the bus and started calling him names the moment he sat down. They were always messing with him – hitting him, tripping him, calling him names. And they did it because Mike got better grades than them.

One day Mike was very upset about everything. He was tired of those four boys picking on him. So he decided to go for a walk around the track and clear his head. At first, he just walked slowly and thought about the situation with the four boys. As he felt the anger rise inside of him, his walk became faster and faster. Suddenly his walk became a run. And he couldn't stop running. Around and around. Faster and faster. Everything became a blur. When he finally did stop, the coach was standing by the track with a stop watch. He said, "Son, come here for a moment. Do you have any idea how fast you were just running?" Mike couldn't even believe the coach was talking to him – he had always been more of a geek than an athlete. "You were running faster than anyone I have ever seen. You might think about joining track." The Coach's words about Mike's speed encouraged Mike to see himself as a strong person. And as a strong person, Mike knew he had the ability to stand up for himself.

Soon after that, Mike spoke to the four bullies on the bus about how they made him feel by teasing him. Seiko, Greg, Ralphie, and Henry realized that Mike was not joking around with them. After that, they stopped bullying him . . . and they even became friends.