

~ Friends or Benefits ~

Book II

Coop Di Leu® books are written from experiences with youth development over the past twenty years. The content of each story is based on evidence from ongoing qualitative research and work for most 5th–9th graders needing support with character and social learning development.

This book focuses on disability awareness, peer pressure, bullying, and self-empowerment. The book will help readers think beyond themselves and consider the welfare of others. It will reveal how positive identities can help make others safer when they are with you. It also allows the reader to learn lessons about mental and physical challenges resulting from how well you care for yourself and the people around you.

Overarching Benefits:

Readers learn about the impact of in/out groups and how popularity and self-pity can cause serious relationship problems. Supporting the emotional needs of people with disabilities is also a significant benefit to be gained.

Primary Goals Applying to This Book (in bold type):

1. Improve family relations.
2. Help better understand cultural differences.
3. Engage with parents/adults.
4. Identify better ways to think about others.
- 5. Facilitate peer leadership.**
6. Prevent bullying.
7. Reduce stereotyping.
- 8. Build capacity for self-improvement.**
9. Increase cross-cultural awareness.
10. Increase self-consciousness.
- 11. Facilitate peer acceptance.**
12. Reveal the impact of imaginary audiences.
- 13. Identify specific stages of character development**
- 14. Shed light on the influence of group cliques.**
15. Expand the categories of stereotypes.
16. Deal with cultural encapsulation (boxed-in beliefs).
17. Deal with issues of masculinity.
18. Ethnic identity development.
- 19. Roles of friends and peers.**