

# ~Tough Skin ~

## Book IV

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 works for most 5<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> graders needing support with character and social learning development.

This is the fourth book in the Coop Di Leu Identity Development Series. It deals with stereotyping, value discovery, and peer encouragement. This book will help readers learn lessons about ethnic identity, supportive friendship, and what “protection” is about. It will also help them help others when friends find themselves on the wrong side of friendliness.

### **Overarching Benefit**

The book helps readers deal with sudden changes in personal environments such as neighborhoods and play spaces. It also helps readers reflect on what it's like to be different, even among familiar people and provides helpful lessons to unpack multiple feelings about acceptance. This book builds the capacity for empathy by transferring the pains and joys of stereotyping. It also prepares youth for peer advocacy.

### **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.**