

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Buster Bartholomew Benjamin Brown and the Schoolyard Bully**  
by Anna Pierri

*“Buster Bartholomew Benjamin Brown,  
a mouse with a mission who takes care of his town.”*

Bullying can begin as early as the preschool years and can take many forms, making it a difficult topic for parents and teachers to navigate. Picture books are a powerful resource in broaching this topic, and reading books about bullying with kids can help them to express their concerns.

Anna Pierri’s *Buster Bartholomew Benjamin Brown and the Schoolyard Bully* is a strong introduction to the concept of bullying through easy-to-read rhymes and vibrant cartoon-style illustrations. In this first book of the series, the reader is introduced to the hero, Buster – a young mouse who’s large for his age and has “a heart that’s as big as a huge Redwood tree.” When trouble (a.k.a. old Rocky Ratnik) comes knocking for his trusty sidekick, Just Billy, Buster learns that dealing with a bully by acting like a bully is not the answer.

Pierri’s engaging story is a great way to start a conversation with young children about being bullied and the appropriate ways to deal with it. “The book’s message regarding bullying is one that parents should want their children to know and practice,” says *CM Magazine*. Slawich’s nostalgic, hand-drawn illustrations perfectly capture the expressiveness of the characters, bringing them further to life. The target reading level is 3 to 8 years old, but the colourful artwork broadens the book’s appeal to an even younger audience.

Buster’s mission continues in the second book of the series, *Buster Bartholomew Benjamin Brown and the Graffiti Mystery*, due out this November.

**ANNA PIERRI** calls Caledon, Ontario, home, where the local wildlife, and especially the mice, give her daily inspiration for her writing. An avid storyteller from a young age, Pierri realized her dream of becoming an author with the Buster Bartholomew Benjamin Brown series. She is also the founder of Ruby Two Shoes Publishing Inc.

**STEVE SLAWICH**’s vibrant and animation-style artwork in the Buster series draws from his years of cartooning experience and working with licensed children's products for companies like Nelvana and Disney Studios, where he had a six-year, full-time stint drawing another famous mouse. Slawich currently lives with his wife and son in Huntersville, North Carolina.

**Book details:**

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