

Chunky

Author/Illustrator: Yehudi Mercado
NC Kids Digital Library [ebook](#) available

Related Books:

Starfish by Lisa Fipps
Big by Vashti Harrison
Be Prepared by Vera Brosgol
Frizzy by Claribel A. Ortega
Guts by Raina Telgemeier
Four Eyes by Rex Ogle
Suee and the Shadow by Ginger Ly
Bad Sister by Charise Mericle Harper
Button Pusher by Taylor Page
Just Roll with It by Lee Durfey-Lavoie

Websites:

[Yehudi Mercado website](#)
[Podcast Interview \(audio only\) with Yehudi Mercado](#)
[The Author's Cut interview](#)
[First Chapter Friday plus interview](#)

Book Trailer:

 **Chunky Book Talk and Trailer** (<https://youtu.be/Layh9Mwilyg?feature=shared>)

Book Talk:

[Colby Sharp book talk](#)
[Excerpt from SLJ Review by Betsy Bird:](#)

Hudi's a funny kid. Literally funny. His sense of humor is key since he only has one lung, people think his weight is a problem, and his parents have just started bugging him about joining some kind of sport. Fortunately, Hudi has a special little someone on his side at all times. He's less an imaginary friend and more an imaginary mascot and his name is Chunky. With Chunky cheering him on, Hudi's ready to face down baseball, swimming, soccer, and even football. But what happens when you alienate your imaginary mascot and then, worst of all, actually live up to your parents' expectations? Hudi's about to find out.

Discussion Questions:

- After reading Chapter 1, how would you describe Hudi? Think about character traits that are both external AND internal
- Hudi's family is a large part of the story. Can you make some personal connections to Hudi's relationships with his mom, dad, and/or sisters?
- What is Chunky's purpose in the story?

- Sunny, a bully, first appears in Chapter 2, and then throughout the book. Describe some of your emotions when you read or heard those portions where Sunny is bullying Hudi.
- There are more bystanders than bullies and victims of bullying. What are some actions that bystanders can take if they are witness to a bullying situation?
- How does Hudi keep a positive attitude throughout the book? Try to cite some specific moments and what he says or does.
- How does Hudi change throughout the story? What are the driving forces behind these changes?
- The major theme of this book is about not fitting in. What are some reasons why Hudi does not feel like he fits in? What are other reasons in real life that someone may feel like they don't fit in?
- Making friends and creating positive relationships can be challenging for everyone. What are some things everyone can do to encourage new friendships and getting to know others?

Activities:

- This book was published in 2021 and the author did a lot of interviews about the book (virtually because of the pandemic). Students can generate questions they would ask Yehudi Mercado after reading the book.
- Sports: Students can research different sports (well-known and not-so-well-known) and complete presentations for their peers
- This book is a memoir and based on the author's own childhood. Use comic book panel templates (look on Canva or use Google to locate free printable templates) to allow students to write and illustrate a short memoir about something from their lives, past or present.
- Create imaginary friends. Choose their name, personality traits, physical traits, and how your imaginary friend will be a POSITIVE part of your life. Draw and write about them/it.
- Use imaginary friends creations (see above) to create an Anti-Bullying Movement ground in positivity with posters, PSAs, speeches, daily reminders for others to be kind and considerate to all.