

Module traduction | Version n°2 "The Daydreamer"

VERSION

There was a bully at Peter's school and his name was Barry Tamerlane. He didn't look like a bully. He wasn't a scruff, his face wasn't ugly, he didn't have a frightening leer, or scabs on his knuckles and he didn't carry dangerous weapons. He wasn't particularly big. Nor was he one of those small, wiry, bony types who can turn out to be vicious fighters. At home he wasn't smacked like many bullies are, and nor was he spoiled. His parents were kind but firm, and quite unsuspecting. His voice wasn't loud or hoarse, his eyes weren't hard and small and he wasn't even very stupid. In fact, he was rather round and soft, though not quite a fatty, with glasses, and a spongy pink face, and a silver brace on his teeth. He often wore a sad and helpless look which appealed to some grown-ups and was very useful when he had to talk himself out of trouble.

So what made Barry Tamerlane a successful bully? Peter had given this question a great deal of dreamy thought. His conclusion was that there were two reasons for Barry's success. The first was that he seemed to be able to move in the quickest way between wanting something and having it. If you were in the playground with a toy and Barry Tamerlane liked the look of it, he simply wrenched it from your hands. If he needed a pencil in class, he just turned around and 'borrowed' yours. If there was a queue he would walk right to the front of it. If he was angry with you he said so and then hit you very hard. The second reason for Tamerlane's success was that everyone was afraid of him. No one quite knew why. The very name Barry Tamerlane was enough to make you feel an icy hand reaching into your stomach. You were frightened of him because everyone else was. He was frightening because he had a reputation for being frightening. When you saw him coming, you got out of his way, and when he asked for your sweets, or your toys, you handed them over.