

## YHBA Novel Resource # 1

Title: Hurty Feelings  
Author: Helen Lester  
Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Company 2004

### About the Author:

Helen Lester was an elementary teacher for ten years, and is the author of sixteen children's books. Her first book was published in 1979. Helen Lester has partnered with Lynn Munsinger for several books she has written, but did illustrate, Author: A True Story. According to an interview with Helen, her favorite books she has written are: Hooway for Wodney Wat, Tacky the Penguin, Author, A True Story. A book titled, A Sheep in Wolf's Clothing will be out in the fall of 2007. It is going to be about a sheep named Ewetopia who goes to a costume ball dressed as a wolf and meets up with a wolf dressed as a sheep. Helen enjoys preparing Italian food, Indian food, and French food. She also enjoys drawing and hiking.

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Interesting facts about the authors' connection to the book: Helen Lester uses personalities of her two sons to make up the characters in her books.



Characters: Fragility (She is a hippo who gets her feelings hurt very easily.)  
Rudy (He is a rude elephant who tries to get to Fragility by hurting her feelings.)

Internal Conflict: Fragility is insecure and takes everything everyone says the wrong way.

External Conflict: Rudy comes along and tries to bully Fragility by insulting her and calling her names.

Conflict Resolution: Rudy insults Fragility by telling her she has weird ears. Fragility tells her, "You know what else has weird ears, an elephant". Rudy immediately runs to look at her reflection, and sees that she does have weird ears, and is not a bully anymore as a result. Fragility isn't so sensitive, and no longer takes comments from others the wrong way.

Genre: Bibliotherapy

Other books she has written: Tack the Penguin  
Three Cheers for Tacky  
Tacky in Trouble  
Tacky and the Emperor  
Princess Penelope's Parrot  
Me First

Book Talk: Hurty Feelings is a children's book about a hippo named Fragility. Fragility is always getting

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her feelings hurt. She has several friends who are always trying to say nice things to her, but she doesn't understand that they are trying to be nice to her and she becomes sad and gets her feelings hurt. Fragility's friend get tired of her getting upset about everything, so they decide to leave her alone and go play somewhere else. Her friends decide to go play a soccer game,

And Fragility decides that she wants to play too.

. She gets to be the goalie, and decides she will not let anyone through, no matter what.

. Along comes a rude elephant named Rudy, who wants to get through and decides he will

bully

her by calling her names. Fragility gets her feelings hurt, and ends up making a comment to him which causes him to change his attitude about how he treats others. There are bright and colorful pictures in the book which are fun to look at, because they show us how the characters are feeling.

Annotation: Hurty Feelings is a funny story about a hippo named Fragility, who never cries when she gets hurt physically, but something else does hurt her. Her feelings get hurt very easily. This book does a great job reaching children who are very sensitive and take things the wrong way. All the other hippos try to compliment her on her different attributes, but she just wails and cries and gets her feelings hurt. The author has a fun way to show what happens when people push others away. When all the other hippos decide to just leave Fragility alone, and go somewhere else, Fragility becomes interested in what they are doing. Rudy comes along and puts a different twist on things. Rudy, a very cute name for the rude elephant who tries to bully Fragility gets put in his place. The saying, "When you have your finger pointing at someone, there are four more pointing back to yourself", comes to mind when Rudy has his comments thrown right back to him. The book has colorful pictures which will help young readers follow the story. My favorite thing about the pictures is the comical aspect of them. When she says, "Do you know what else is nice? Cupcakes", there is a picture of fragility with a cupcake body. I think young readers will find these pictures humorous, and the pictures will definitely capture their attention.

Illustrator: Lynn Munsinger

Lynn Munsinger graduated from Tufts University in 1974. She has illustrated over twelve of Helen Lester's books. She is a full-time illustrator. She was an Arizona Young Reader Award Nominee in 2006. She is on the Show Me Master List of Nominees for 1994-2007. The Show Me Readers Award promotes literature, literacy, and reading in Missouri schools for grades 1-3, and recognizes authors and illustrators of books that are favorites of Missouri children in these grades. She was also on the North Carolina Book Award Program list for 2002.

Other books she has illustrated: A Zooful of Animals by: William R. Cole  
An Arkful of Animals by: William R. Cole  
Bedtime Mouse by: Sandal Stodard  
Just a Little Bit by: Ann Tompert  
Nothing Sticks Like a Shadow by: Ann Tompert

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