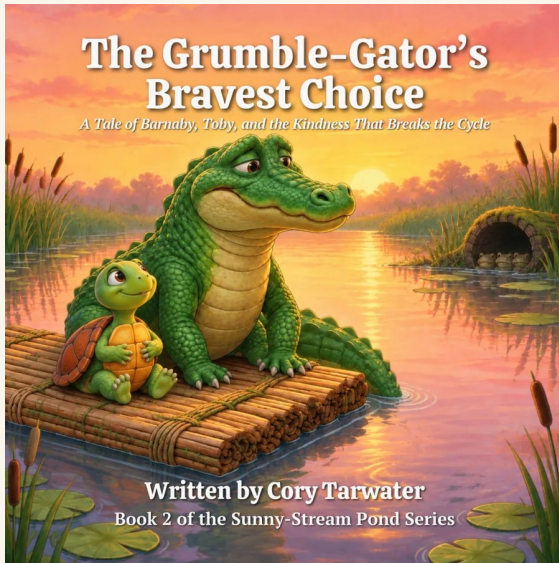


The Grumble-Gator's Bravest Choice

A Tale of Barnaby, Toby, and the Kindness That Breaks the Cycle

written by Cory Tarwater



Ages 3-8 • Picture Book

BULLYING • KINDNESS • SECOND CHANCES

Barnaby used to be the biggest bully in Sunny-Stream Pond. Now he's Toby's friend. But one quiet evening on the raft, he shares a secret. Long ago, when he was just a little hatchling, Barnaby was the one being picked on.

He grew big, but the hurt stayed with him, and he passed it on. Now Barnaby has a choice to make. A gentle story about where hurt comes from, and the one brave choice that can stop it.

"I can't undo the splashes from my past. But I don't have to keep that cycle spinning either. It can stop with me."

FORMATS Paperback • eBook
AGES 3-8 • 8.5 × 8.5 in
SUBJECTS Bullying • Empathy • SEL

PUBLISHED Fall 2026 • JCT Creations
SERIES Sunny-Stream Pond • Book 2
ISBN 979-8162091745

Perfect for parents, teachers, counselors, and librarians

Breaks the cycle

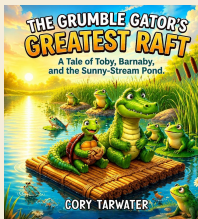
shows kids that hurt doesn't have to be passed on

Opens real talks

about feelings, choices, and saying sorry

Free classroom kit

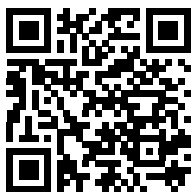
discussion guide, activities, and printables



PAIRS WITH BOOK 1

The Grumble-Gator's Greatest Raft

Where it all began. Toby is picked on by a grumpy alligator and chooses kindness instead of hitting back. Read Book 1 first, then Book 2, for a full story about how hurt starts and how it ends. Paperback, hardcover, and eBook.



Scan to see the book

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Cory Tarwater writes gentle picture books about kindness, friendship, and second chances. His Grumble-Gator stories grew from his own childhood, being bullied as a young boy and the lifelong friend who showed him what kindness looks like. He writes from his home in Utah.

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