

Finally heard

What you say matters. Even online!



Dear Educator,


“What you say matters. Even online.” This powerful messaging is at the heart of *Finally Heard*, a new novel by award-winning author Kelly Yang. The book takes young readers on a learning journey with a fifth grader, her friends, and her family as they navigate the positive and negative aspects of social media.

This free educational program from Simon & Schuster and the curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired features activities to help guide students in grades 4-6 to be responsible, kind, and safe online.

- **Share:** We hope that you will share this program with other teachers.
- **Tell us:** Please share your thoughts about the program with the enclosed reply card or online at ymiclassroom.com/feedback-finallyheard. We will send you a **free copy of *Finally Heard*** while supplies last.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Sincerely,


 Dr. Dominic Kinsley
 Editor in Chief
 Young Minds Inspired

Questions? Contact YMI toll-free at 1-800-859-8005 or by email at feedback@ymiclassroom.com.

Target Audience

Grades 4-6

Program Components

Available at ymiclassroom.com/finallyheard:

- This teacher’s guide
- Two reproducible student activity sheets
- A reproducible family take-home letter
- A classroom poster
- A standards chart
- An online feedback form

Concepts and Skills

Kindness	Reading informational text
Safety	Decision making
Respect	Analytical thinking
Empathy	

About “Finally Heard”

Kelly Yang’s middle grade novel *Finally Heard* is written from the perspective of a fictional 10-year-old girl — a newcomer, with her immigrant family, to California. Lina Gao struggles with feelings of inadequacy in the context of wanting to be a good friend, a good sibling, a good daughter, and a good neighbor ... and her insecurities are often at odds with the intriguing, sometimes insidious world of social media. At the story’s climax, Lina both witnesses and contributes to aggression on social media. But the steady counternarrative from sensible adult voices, such as those of her teacher and grandmother, helps her redefine inner strength and start over on a foundation of kindness.

Kelly Yang is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Front Desk* (winner of the 2019 Asian/Pacific American Award for Children’s Literature), *Parachutes*, *Three Keys*, *Room to Dream*, *New from Here*, *Finally Seen*, and *Finally Heard*.

How to Use This Guide

Photocopy the activity sheets for students and display the poster. These activities are designed for use whether or not your class has read the book — they will provide deeper engagement for classes that have read the story. Also, make copies of the parent and caregiver letter to send home, or share it with families via email or your class website.

Activity 1: Be Kind Online!

Invite students to share what they know about social media and communicating online, as well as the pros and cons. While students may not have their own accounts due to their age, they may have indirect experience with it.

Part 1: Distribute the activity sheet and review it with students. Ask students what *cyberbullying* means. Explain that in the story, Lina, her classmates, and family experience different types of cyberbullying — from name calling to negative comments to unkind video posts. Discuss the students’ answers as a class. Share

Lina’s teacher, Mrs. Carter’s, sentiment that “the thing about the internet is, because there’s a screen, it feels anonymous. It *feels* like you can do and say anything.” Ask: *Why is it important not to fall into this false sense of anonymity?*

Part 2: Guide students as they create online kindness posters. After students share their work with the class, display the posters throughout the school to promote a kind community.

Activity 2: Safety First!

Ask students to share some safety rules that they follow in everyday life, such as looking both ways before crossing the street. Next, ask them to name safety rules they follow online whether reading, playing a game, or corresponding with others. Write these on the board.

Part 1: Distribute the activity sheet and have students complete Part 1. As a class discuss the answers and students’ reactions to them.
Answers: 1. communicate; 2. personal; 3. settings; 4. adult; 5. safe; 6. feelings; 7. matters

Part 2: Have students work in teams to brainstorm additional online safety tips. Write their answers on the board and have students identify the rules that they think are important and why. Use their answers to create a poster-size list of “Our Class’s Online Safety Rules” and have each student sign it.

As a reminder: Send home the parent and caregiver letter so families can discuss these activities and online safety and etiquette at home.

Resources

- **Simon & Schuster**
simonandschuster.com/books/Finally-Heard/
 Kelly-Yang/9781665947930
- **YMI program site**
ymiclassroom.com/finallyheard

Free Book Opportunity

Return a completed reply card or share your feedback on the program at ymiclassroom.com/feedback-finallyheard to receive a free copy of *Finally Heard* by Kelly Yang, while supplies last.

Be Kind Online!



In *Finally Heard* by Kelly Yang, when ten-year-old Lina Gao sees her mom's video on social media take off, she's captivated by the potential to be seen and heard. Maybe online she can finally find the confidence she craves. With the help of her two best friends and her little sister, Lina sets off to go viral. Except there's a lot more to social media than Lina ever imagined, like secret chats and confusing stories. As Lina descends deeper into social media, she needs to find the courage to be her authentic self.



PART 1 Lina and her friends discover that social media has positives, but it also has negatives, including cyberbullying. Mr. Li, one of the adults in the community, shares his thoughts about social media and communicating online. He says: "I want a world in which we are kind to each other online, all the time. Where we think before we speak. Where we cheer each other on. Where we spread joy, not meanness."

How does Mr. Li's thought make you feel? Write three words that describe your feelings.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Why do you think the author included this thought in the story?



PART 2 To help her friends see that it's cool to be kind online, Lina creates colorful posters about online kindness. They include short, exciting slogans like:

- Just be kind!
- Words matter! Kindness starts here!
- Let's make kindness go viral!

Now, it's your turn to create a poster that promotes online kindness, just as Lina did. Think of your own slogans or phrases about kindness that you could write on your poster. Write them below. Then on separate paper, design your poster.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

... **Grown-ups:** Check out *Finally Heard* by Kelly Yang to find out what happens to Lina.



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Children's Publishing



Safety First!

It's important to make decisions that will help keep you safe. Even online.

Communicating online is not anonymous and your words don't disappear, so it's important to think before you share or post something online.

PART 1 Use the word bank to fill in the missing words in the online safety sentences below.

WORD BANK: adult personal feelings settings safe matters communicate

1. Only _____ with people you know.
2. Don't share _____ information with a stranger online.
3. Manage your profile _____ with a trusted adult.
4. If something makes you uncomfortable, tell a trusted _____.
5. You have the right to be _____ when you're online.
6. Consider people's _____ when you're posting or communicating online.
7. A screen does not make your words and actions anonymous. What you say online _____.

PART 2 Brainstorm additional safety reminders and advice that everyone should follow when they're online. Write them below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Finally heard

“I think instead of rules, rules, rules, it’s important we invite kids to be part of the conversation.”

– Mrs. Gao
from *Finally Heard* by Kelly Yang

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The digital world, especially within social media, can be a confusing place for young people. Inspired by themes within Simon & Schuster’s new release, *Finally Heard* by Kelly Yang, your child has been participating in activities that encourage them to consider the positive and negative feelings social media can evoke. Interpersonal relationships, safety, and the role of online kindness also come into play, as well as the importance of talking with a trusted adult about situations they may need help navigating.

The tips and discussion starters below are designed to help you have these conversations with your child and help them become safe and responsible digital citizens.

Tips for Guiding Your Child on Social Media

- Reinforce how to use social media safely and respectfully.
- Set and enforce screen time limits. Too much screen time has been linked to obesity, as well as learning, sleep, and behavior issues.*
- Supervise computer and cell phone activity. Making mistakes online can be a learning experience – with you there to help and support your child.
- Manage expectations. Children might hyperfocus on the number of “likes” or comments a post gets. Limit what your child can post and discuss how to best respond to negative comments.

♥ Conversation Starters

A relaxed, supportive dialogue between you and your child can help lead to meaningful connections. Use the following questions to open the pathway.

- How has someone been kind to you online? How were you kind to someone else?
- What are some of your favorite apps?
- If things don’t feel right online, do you feel comfortable reaching out to a trusted adult?
- If someone says something negative about a post or comment you make, what do you do?
- What would you do if someone made fun of a friend online?
- Do you know the difference between what’s true and what’s looking to sell you something?
- Is everyone in your contacts list someone you know personally?

About “Finally Heard”

From Kelly Yang, the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Front Desk*, comes the sequel to *Finally Seen* in which Lina gets a phone and tries to navigate social media, only to discover not everything online is what it seems.

When ten-year-old Lina Gao sees her mom’s video on social media take off, she’s captivated by the potential to be seen and heard. Maybe online she can finally find the confidence she craves. With the help of her two best friends, Carla and Finn, and her little sister, Millie, Lina sets off to go viral. Except there’s a lot more to social media than Lina ever imagined, like group chats, disappearing videos, and a bazillion stories about what to eat, wear, and put on her face. As Lina descends deeper and deeper into social media, it will take all her strength to break free from the likes and find the courage to be her authentic self in this fast-paced world.



*www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/childrens-health/in-depth/screen-time/art-20047952#



WHAT YOU SAY MATTERS.

EVEN ONLINE.



LinaGao

Let's make kindness go viral! Don't forget...

 Think before you post – remember, the internet is permanent.

 Only communicate with people you know in real life.

 You never know what other people are going through.

 If something makes you uncomfortable, tell a trusted adult.

 Protect your brain! Take breaks from screen time and go outside.