

HOW DYLAN PE'



Seeing a photograph of 10-year-old Dylan Peters with a big smile on his face, proudly displaying a book, one might guess that he finished at the top of his class in a reading contest or perhaps completed a particularly successful book report. Take another guess. Jim Eisenreich, the former professional baseball player who has been afflicted with the motor and vocal tics associated with Tourette's syndrome, has said of Dylan Peters, "Dylan has done what most of us (including me) would not even think of doing, especially at such a young age." What is this ten-year-old author's accomplishment? Rather than merely coping with the challenges of growing up with the symptoms of Tourette's Syndrome, Dylan has taken on the task of educating other people about what life is like for children like him, as well as their families and friends. In his recent book, *Tic Talk* (Five Star Publications, 2007), he shares the insights about tolerance and acceptance that he has gained in the five years since he was diagnosed with Tourette's. Between school, homework and football games, Dylan found the time to answer some questions from *The Teaching Librarian*:

TL: What is your biggest challenge in living with Tourette's Syndrome?

Dylan: In April 2005, I had a six-week episode of full body tics that made it impossible to get through a full day of school. I was in a great deal of pain from sore muscles. This has been the most challenging episode so far. It is also difficult when I have a tic or tics that cause other problems, like my mouth opening tic caused the creases in my lips to be very sore and bleed; and my eye blinking tic made it hard to read and focus because my eyes would blink every couple of seconds.