

# CELEBRATE

## The 2008

Teen 3 Apples Book Award, a New  
York State Teen's Choice Award  
Winner,

## *A Child Called "It"*

by David Pelzer

(Health Communications)

A young boy, who is starved and beaten by an alcoholic mother, manages to run away and describe his predicament to the authorities. Although gruesome in detail, the book ends on a very hopeful note.

### About The Author

Dave Pelzer endured a horrific childhood being abused by his mentally ill and alcoholic mother. At age 18 he entered the U.S. Air Force and turned his life around. He went on to write six inspirational books. He is married and has a son named Stephen.

### Activities

1. Arrange to have a social worker visit your class or public library. She should discuss the guidelines used by teachers, doctors and other professionals to recognize child abuse.
2. Have the students make a poster—a visual map of the things discussed by the social worker ie. indicators of physical and mental abuse in children.
3. Have the students research their state's legislation protecting abused and abandoned children.\*

### Websites

[www.gangfreekids.org](http://www.gangfreekids.org)

This is the website of the National Foundation For Abused and Neglected Kids. The site contains a wealth of information on abused children. It also highlights the pictures and information on missing children across the U.S.

[www.connectforkids.org](http://www.connectforkids.org)\*

This is a legislative advocacy site, which tracks changes in laws that affect the welfare of abused and neglected children.

[www.cwla.org/](http://www.cwla.org/)

The Child Welfare League of America is a broad-based, national website. It has information on how to recognize and report child abuse. It lists local and state “child abuse hotline” numbers.

[www.childhelpusa.org/report\\_hotline.htm](http://www.childhelpusa.org/report_hotline.htm)\*

Contains information on the statistics about child abuse and lists many programs for prevention and treatment.

\*Consult for information on states and state laws