The Year of the Worm

An identification novel for lots of youngsters surely, who will recognise themselves in the pathetic Worm. Peter Wrigley --- or Worm, for cruelty --- is small, thin, weak and, naturally, unpopular. Bullied by anyone who can get a fist to land on him, he leads a thoroughly miserable school life. Like all such fictional schoolboys, he dreams of the daring deed that will set him up for life, completely reverse his image, change his personality, make him into a local hero. In a well-written novel, he finds, after several hiccups en route, just such an opportunity on a youth hostelling holiday in the Lake District. A tale of the Worm turned.