

Disability Reads

Books for kids with and without disabilities

Picture Books

Bernstrom, Daniel*. *Song in the City*. A young girl, filled with the sounds of her beloved city, shares a song with her grandmother that changes the two forever. After helping Grandma realize that the city makes music as beautiful as the sounds they hear in church on Sunday morning, the two sit down and take in all the sounds of the city together.

Brown, Khea*. *Sam's Super Seats*. Sam is excited to go back to school shopping with her best friends. She needs to rest a lot because of her cerebral palsy, and luckily there are some great seats to meet!

Catchpole, James*. *What Happened to You?* Joe is fed up of only ever being asked about his leg. All he wants to do is play Pirates. But as usual, one after the other, all the children ask him: what happened to you? Finally they realize that it's a question Joe just doesn't want to answer—and that Joe is playing a rather good game—one that they can join in with if they can stop fixating on his missing leg.

Cotterill, Samantha*. *It was Supposed to be Sunny* (series). Laila feels like her sparkly sunshine birthday celebration is on the brink of ruin when it starts to storm. Then, an accident with her cake makes her want to call the whole thing off. But with the help of her mom and a little alone time with her service dog, she knows she can handle this

Filippone, Nicole*. *Rosalee the Seeker* (series). Rosalee's a little sensory seeker with a BIG heart...except she sometimes does things she doesn't mean to do. A little help from Ms. Kat to learn how to move her body and organize herself makes a big difference!

Fritsch, Kelly*. *We Move Together*. Fair is everyone getting ice cream; unfair is a step that blocks people in scooters or wheelchairs from getting some. Follow a mixed-ability group of kids as they creatively negotiate everyday barriers and find joy and connection in disability culture and community.

Gianferrari, Maria. *Hello Goodbye Dog*. For Zara's dog, Moose, nothing is more important than being with his favorite girl. So when Zara goes to school, Moose escapes and rushes to her side. But dogs aren't allowed at school and Moose has to go home. With a little bit of training and one great idea, the two friends find a way to be together all day long.

Giroux, Benjamin*. *I am Odd, I am New*. Through the eyes of 10-year-old Benjamin Giroux, being odd is different, and different is a good thing. This is what the then fifth-grader hoped to convey in his poem, beginning every few sentences with "I am," about what it is like to live with autism.

Hammond, Tiffany*. *A Day With No Words*. Some people use their mouths to speak. In this family, they use a tablet that talks instead. How many words do they share on a day when no one uses their mouth?

Hartmann, Amanda. *I Talk in Different Ways*. I wave, I smile, I point... I talk! And I have so many things to say! Explore how a young AAC user communicates and connects with the people in her life. She talks to them in so many different ways.

Johns, Alison. *Eddie the Elephant Has Something to Say*. Eddie has lots of ideas...but it is so frustrating when his friends don't understand him! So he gets an augmentative and alternative communication device to help him communicate his ideas more clearly.

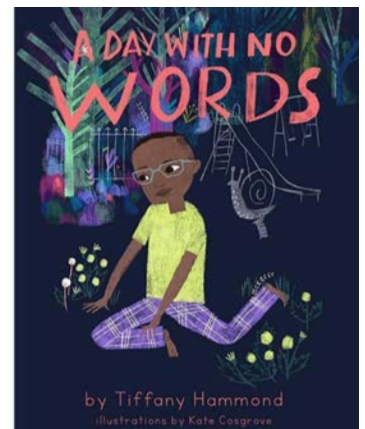
Kilgore, Emily*. *The Whatifs*. Cora is constantly worrying about everything. Because of this, the Whatifs love her. They sneak up to her and give her all kinds of doubts: big, small, likely, or impossible. As she prepares for an upcoming piano recital, the Whatifs cling on tighter and drag her down, making her anxious about messing up during the concert. Will she be able to change her worry-filled thoughts into hopeful ones?

Malia, Jen*. *Too Sticky!* Holly loves doing experiments and learning new things in science class! But when she finds out the next experiment is making slime, she's worried. Slime is made with glue, and glue is sticky. Holly receives the accommodations and encouragement she needs to give slime a try.

Parker, Lindsey Rowe*. *Wiggles, Stomps, and Squeezes Calm My Jitters Down*. The vibration in her feet when she runs, the tap-tap-tap of her fork on the table at mealtime, the trickle of cool water running over her hands: these are the things that calm her jitters down.

Plohl, Igor*. *Lucas Makes a Comeback* (series). When Lucas falls off a ladder, he damages his spine and can't use his legs anymore. He can't stand on them and he can't walk on them. After a lot of work, Lucas can drive a car, play sports, and be a teacher again, all from his wheelchair.

*This creator is disabled.



Rabinowitz, Alan*. *A Boy and a Jaguar*. Alan loves animals, but the great cat house at the Bronx Zoo makes him sad. Why are they all alone in empty cages? Are they being punished? He wants to be their champion—their voice—but he stutters uncontrollably. The only time he is fluent is when he's talking with animals. Now a renowned cat conservationist, Alan reflects on his childhood.

Reynolds, K.A*. *Big Worry Day*. A little girl is convinced that her dog worries, just like her. With a whole day ahead of them, she'll need to figure out how to soothe them both. She prepares snacks, first aid, and even a sword in case there are any monsters. But when nothing works to ease their worries, she'll need to get creative.

Shulte, Anitra Rowe. *Dancing with Daddy*. Elsie can't wait to go to her first father-daughter dance. She picked out the perfect dress and has been practicing swirling and swaying in her wheelchair. With gestures and augmentative communication, she shares her excitement with her family. But when a winter storm comes, will the dance go on?

Stoker, Ali*. *Ali and the Sea Stars*. Ali loves to dance, sing, and act. But she had never thought of putting on her own show until her neighbor asks, 'Why wait?'

Additional Resources

For families and classes to share together: Learn how to evaluate a book featuring disabled characters: bit.ly/EvalDisabilityBooks

More information for adults: Additional recommendations and anti-recs written by disabled people: bit.ly/DisabilityKidLitBlog

Two opinions on why *Rules* is not included: bit.ly/ReadRulesOPPL

One example why *Wonder* is not included: bit.ly/ProperNounBlogWonder



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Fiction

Bowling, Dusti. *Aven Green, Sleuthing Machine* (Early Chapter series). Third-grader Aven Green has been solving mysteries for a whole month, cracking such cases as The Mystery of the Cranky Mom. But can this perceptive detective solve two cases at the same time?

Carter, Caela*. *Fifty-four Things Wrong With Gwendolyn Rogers*. Gwendolyn knows she doesn't have just one thing wrong with her, she has fifty-four, according to a confidential school report. She needs a plan to get them under control so she can go to horse camp this summer.

Choldenko, Jennifer. *Al Capone Does My Shirts*. (series) Moose Flannagan moves with his family to Alcatraz so his dad can work as a prison guard and his autistic sister, Natalie, can attend a special school. All he wants to do is stay out of trouble. But on Alcatraz, trouble is never very far away.

Davis, Tanita S*. *Figure it Out, Henri Weldon*. Henri attended a special school for her dyscalculia, but when she moves to public school, she finds herself struggling to balance other parts of her life, and not just in math class: a family feud, drama on the soccer team, and a passion for poetry.

Draper, Sharon. *Out of My Mind* (series). Eleven-year-old Melody can't walk, talk, or write, because she has cerebral palsy. But she has a photographic memory; she's the smartest kid in her whole school, but NO ONE knows it. She's determined to let everyone know it...somehow.

Gow, Robin*. *Dear Mothman*. After the death of his best friend and the only other trans boy at school, Noah starts writing letters expressing his feelings to the humanoid creature Mothman and risks everything when he treks into the woods to prove Mothman's existence.

Holt, K.A. *Jordan J and the Truth About Jordan J*. When Jordan does not make the cut for the dance show Fierce Across America, he pairs up with schoolmate Casey, leader of the dance team, who believes her dance skills and Jordan's choreography will make them an unbeatable team.

Hunt, Lynda Mullaly. *Fish in a Tree*. Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people: every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. But her newest teacher sees the bright, creative dyslexic kid underneath the trouble maker.

Kane, Karen. *Charlie and Frog: A Mystery* (series). Charlie is shocked when a frightened old woman gives him a desperate message in American Sign Language. Charlie needs to learn ASL fast to keep up with quick-witted Frog, and Frog needs to gather her detective know-how to break the case before it's too late.

Kapit, Sarah*. *Get a Grip, Vivy Cohen!* When her social skills teacher makes her write a letter to someone, Vivy knows exactly who to choose: her hero, Major League pitcher VJ Capello. Then two amazing things happen: A coach sees Vivy's amazing knuckleball and invites her to join his team. And VJ starts writing back!

Kelly, Lynne. *Song for a Whale*. Twelve-year-old Iris is a tech genius, but because she's the only deaf person in her school, people often treat her like she's not very smart. When she learns about a whale who is unable to speak to other whales, Iris understands how he must feel. She decides to invent a way to "sing" to him, but how will she travel 3,000 miles to do it?

Kuyatt, Meg Eden*. *Good Different*. Selah always sticks to her rules for being normal. This means keeping her feelings locked tightly inside, despite the way they build up inside her as each school day goes on. As Selah comes to understand that different doesn't mean damaged, can she get her school to understand that, too?

McNicoll, Elle*. *A Kind of a Spark*. When Addie discovers that her small Scottish town used to burn witches simply because they were different, she refuses to let them be forgotten. Her autism, and her sister's, create a special link to this history.

McNicoll, Elle*. *Show Us Who You Are*. Cora is shown an amazing new technology that gives her another chance to talk to the best friend she lost. But she soon discovers the corporation behind the science hides dark secrets that only she can expose.

O'Donnell, Liam. *West Meadows Detectives: The Case of the Snack Snatcher* (Early Chapter series). Myron is a third-grade detective who loves logic, facts and solving mysteries. When the kitchen at his new school is burgled, morning snacks nowhere to be found, Myron is on the case.

Stroker, Ali* and Stacy Davidowitz. *The Chance to Fly*. Nat auditions for a kids' production of *Wicked*, one of her favorite musicals ever and gets into the ensemble! The other cast members are super cool and inclusive. But when things go awry a week before opening night, will Nat be able to "Defy Gravity?"

Graphic Novels

Agarwal, Veronica* and Lee Durfey-Lavoie*. *Just Roll with It*. Maggie just wants to get through her first year of middle school. But she's having a tough time...so she might need a little help from her twenty-sided dice. But what happens if Maggie rolls the wrong number?

Bell, Cece*. *El Deafo*. Starting a new school is scary, even more so with a giant hearing aid strapped to your chest. At her old school, everyone in Cece's class was deaf. Here she is different. Can Cece channel her super phonic powers into finding the thing she wants most, a true friend?



Fung, Rosena*. *Living with Viola*. Livy is already having trouble fitting in as the new girl at school--and then there's Viola: Livy's anxiety brought to life. Livy tries to push back against Viola's relentless judgement, but nothing seems to work until she strikes up new friendships at school. Are Viola's days numbered?

Meltzer, Brad. *I Am Helen Keller* (Graphic Novel BIO KELLER). When Helen Keller was very young, she became deaf and blind. It was hard for her to communicate and she often got angry. But her teacher, Annie Sullivan, helped her learn sign language and Braille and Helen grew up to become a social activist, leading the fight for people with disabilities and so many other causes.

Non-Fiction

A Different Kind of Normal. (618.928 BAL) I didn't know I was autistic until I was an adult. This is my true story of growing up in the confusing "normal" world, all the while missing some Very Important Information about myself.

*Rolling Warrior: The Incredible, Sometimes Awkward, True Story of a Rebel Girl on Wheels who Helped Spark a Revolution** (BIO HEUMANN). Heumann was only five years old when she was first denied her right to attend school. Paralyzed from polio and raised by her Holocaust-surviving parents in New York City, her drive for equality was instilled early in life.

All the Way to the Top: How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed Everything (BIO KEELAN). Diagnosed with cerebral palsy at birth, Jennifer Keelan grew up battling the limitations others set for her, continually blocked from living the life she wanted. When she was eight years old, she discovered the world of disability rights activism and participated in the Capitol Crawl to help convince Congress to pass the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah (BIO YEBOAH). Born in Ghana, with one leg, Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah was dismissed by most people. As a boy, he hopped to school more than two miles each way, played soccer, provided for his family, and eventually, became a cyclist.

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