

# Disability-Inclusive Children's Books



## Disability-inclusive children's books

### Cognitive/intellectual disabilities

Books on this list represent varying cognitive and intellectual abilities including genetic and behavioral differences.

\*Books with characters who are defined as "neurodiverse" and without a specific diagnosis can be found in the Undiagnosed/Invisible category.

### Early grades



### [Zee Zee Does It Anyway!: A Story about Down Syndrome and Determination](#)

Dr. Vona B. Shodja, Jess Addison (I) | Age 1-12 | Down syndrome

Zee Zee Does It Anyway is a Mom's Choice Awards® Gold Recipient!

PLUS

Readers' Favorite gave this book a 5-star review!

Have you ever met someone with an EXTRA 21st chromosome? If you have, then you already know someone with Down syndrome.

But if you haven't met someone with this trait before today, please meet Zee Zee and learn what is different about her DNA.

But surprise! She's not as different as you might think. Zee Zee is a fun-loving and determined girl who can bake, dance, swim and even fly!

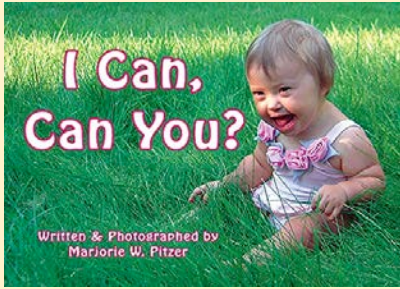
Often it is assumed that people with Down syndrome can't do what other kids do, but Zee Zee proves that with a little help and perseverance, she can do anything she sets her mind to.

This inclusive book is full of positivity and inspiration as Zee Zee shares her empowering story. It is a perfect introduction to Down syndrome for those who are unfamiliar or just want to learn more.

It is a great education tool for typical kids, parents, parents with new babies who have Down syndrome, teachers, librarians, therapists, and doctors alike to help inform

everyone that Down syndrome is not a condition to be feared but embraced, and even celebrated.

Zee Zee Does It Anyway is a fantastic introductory book on Down syndrome for children. It perfectly illustrates the wonderful quote by Carl Jung, "I am not what happened to me. I am what I choose to become." I love the positivity and can-do attitude that permeates this lovely book. Thanks, Zee Zee!



### [I Can, Can You?](#)

*Marjorie W. Pitzer | Age 1-3 | Down syndrome*

Toddlers with Down syndrome show all the things they can do, including swim, share, and play ball.



### [Joyfully Josie](#)

*Nicole Zeitzer Johnson, David Concepcion (I) | Age 2-15 | FOXG1 syndrome*

Are children confused when they meet a child with a disability?  
They don't have to be!

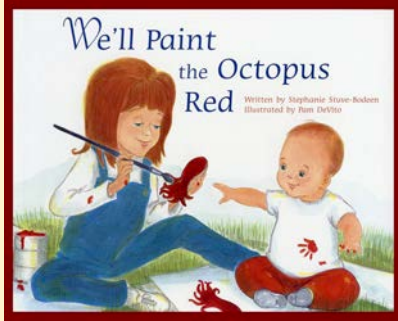
Introducing Joyfully Josie, a heartwarming children's book about a little girl named Josie who has a rare disease called FOXG1 syndrome that causes disabilities.

Despite her many challenges, Josie's joy lights up the world around her. Through her experiences, Josie teaches about inclusion and encourages children to feel comfortable asking questions about children who look different.

Parents will love having a safe and joyful way of helping their children understand what might be new and confusing to them. Joyfully Josie gives parents the tools to teach their children how to embrace and include children with disabilities. Children will be inspired by Josie's positivity and encouraged to approach their own challenges with resilience and optimism.

Ideal for young readers and read-alouds with young children and their families, Joyfully Josie is a must-read that will leave a lasting impression on readers of all ages. Come discover the joy of Josie and learn about the incredible strength and resilience of those who live with disabilities and rare diseases.

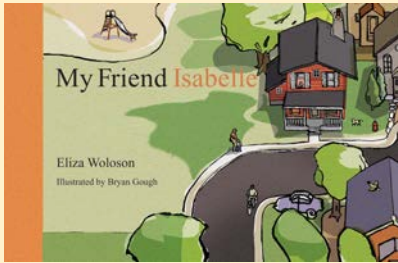
Profits from the sales of all Joyfully Josie books go to support the FOXG1 Research Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charity. The foundation was created to help educate, support families with children who have disabilities and more.



### [We'll Paint the Octopus Red](#)

*Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen, Pam Devito (I) | Age 2-4 | Down syndrome*

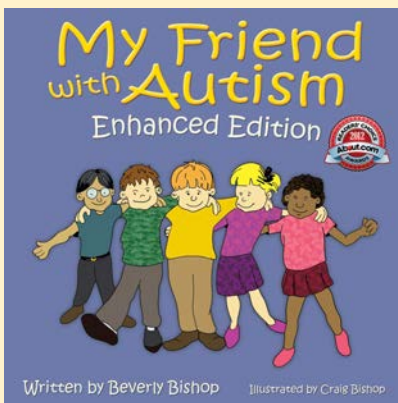
Emma and her father discuss what they will do when the new baby arrives, but they adjust their expectations when he is born with Down syndrome



### [My Friend Isabelle](#)

*Eliza Woloson, Bryan Gough (I) | Age 2-5 | Down syndrome*

A young boy named Charlie describes the activities he shares with his friend Isabelle, a girl with Down Syndrome.



### [My Friend with Autism](#)

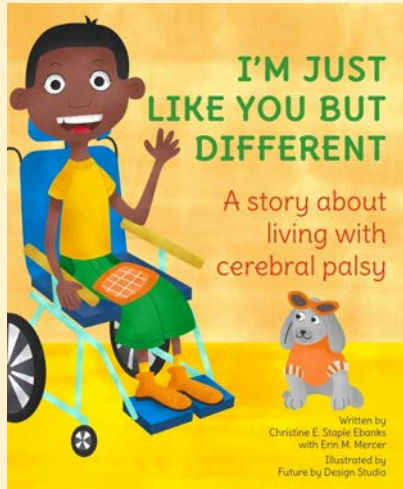
*Beverly Bishop, Craig Bishop (I) | Age 2-7 | Autism spectrum disorder*

This book's vivid illustrations and charming storyline will foster tolerance and understanding among peers, while the printable coloring pages will enlighten and engage learners!

My Friend with Autism Enhanced Edition is the exceptional result of author and parent Beverly Bishop's determination to educate her son's classmates about autism, thus helping her son fit in at school. A peer narrator explains that his friend with autism is good at some things and not so good at others—just like everyone else! In an informative, positive tone, he addresses issues such as:

- Sensory Sensitivity
- Communication Differences
- Unique Ways of Playing
- Insistence on Routine

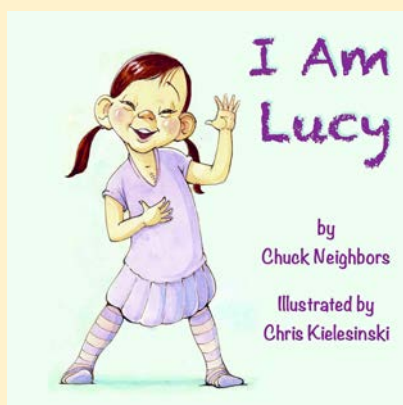
At the end of the book are page-by-page notes for adults, which supplement the text with facts and explanations to further educate teachers and classmates' parents.



## [I'm Just Like You But Different: A Story About Living with Cerebral Palsy](#)

*Christine E. Stable Ebanks | Age 2-8 | Cerebral palsy*

This engaging and delightful book is based on a true-life experience and shares the inspiring tale of inclusion that transformed the life of Nathan, a kindergartener with cerebral palsy, and his classmates. It invites young children into the important conversation about differences, teaching acceptance, empathy, and what it truly means to be a friend to a child with special needs. Perfect for children aged 4-8.



## [I am Lucy](#)

*Chuck Neighbors, Chris Kielesinski (I) | Age 2+ | Kabuki Syndrome*

Lucy wants us to understand that while her "special needs" make her different, she is still just like the rest of us in so many ways.

Through clever rhyme and delightful illustrations, Lucy tells us:

Some needs are special, they're not like the rest.  
They may leave a scar upon your chest.  
You may look different, have a tube, a scar.  
But all these things are not who you are.

Even though she has a rare syndrome and health issues, Lucy is so much more than her physical and emotional challenges. Lucy's story is a powerful and compelling voice for children with special needs, disabilities, and illnesses. Her story encourages us to see the child first and the disability second. *I Am Lucy* is not only for parents and families with vulnerable children—but it is also an important lesson for all of us.

Parents and teachers will value the lessons this book teaches about:

Respecting others  
Compassion  
Understanding  
Accepting differences

Lucy has Kabuki syndrome, a rare genetic disorder believed to affect 1 in 32,000 births worldwide. For more information on Kabuki syndrome visit:

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



## A Friend for Henry



by Jenn Bailey

illustrated by Mika Song

### [A Friend for Henry](#)

*Jenn Bailey, Mika Song (I) | Age 3-5 | Autism spectrum disorder*

In Classroom Six, second left down the hall, Henry has been on the lookout for a friend. A friend who shares. A friend who listens. Maybe even a friend who likes things to stay the same and all in order, as Henry does. But on a day full of too close and too loud, when nothing seems to go right, will Henry ever find a friend—or will a friend find him? With insight and warmth, this heartfelt story from the perspective of a boy on the autism spectrum celebrates the everyday magic of friendship.

**BACK TO SCHOOL:** Familiar school scenarios—from new schedules to making new friends—are portrayed with humor and understanding in this sweet picture book that will appeal to and reassure any child starting or continuing in school.

**DIVERSE STORIES:** Representing neurodivergent kids is a vital aspect of expanding diverse representation across books for all ages. *A Friend for Henry* provides a mirror and a window for kids on the autism spectrum and their friends to see themselves in the stories they read.

**AN AWARD-WINNING TEAM AND A BELOVED CHARACTER:** Jenn Bailey and Mika Song were awarded a Schneider Family Honor Award for *A Friend for Henry*. Now, fans of this award-winning picture book can grow along with Henry! Henry's story continues in *Henry, Like Always*, the first book in an early reader series based on the same character.

Perfect for:

Preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school classrooms

Parents of children with autism spectrum disorder

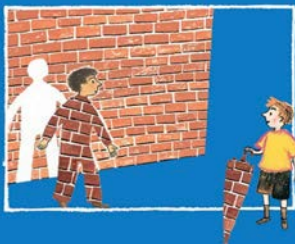
Librarians, teachers, and booksellers looking for children's picture books that celebrate diversity and inclusion

A reassuring read for kids with varying levels of social anxiety

Gift-givers looking for a sweet and relatable book about making friends

## David's World

A Picture Book about Living with Autism



Written by Dagmar H. Mueller  
Illustrated by Verena Ballhaus

### [David's World: A Story About Living with Autism](#)

*Dagmar H. Mueller, Verena Ballhaus (I) | Age 3-6 | Autism spectrum disorder*

"Sometimes I do not like David. He is so different. He speaks a different language. . . . David is my brother." Thus begins a moving story about David, who has autism, and his older brother, who is trying to understand the world David inhabits. David does not like when people are noisy; he does not like being hugged—not even by his own brother. David does not laugh when happy or cry when sad. He speaks his own language, which is difficult to understand at times. And he eats the same foods almost every day. However, David is a brilliant pianist and seems to have an amazing ability to communicate with the family dog. And even though he is not like most children, through the eyes of his brother we are able to see how he makes progress toward understanding his world.

Dagmar H. Mueller's moving text paired with Verena Ballhaus's expressive art help bring to light the notion that there is a lot to learn about spending time with a child with autism. The book's striking narration—told from the point of view of David's brother—will help siblings and friends of autistic children better relate to them. This is a must for any home with children with autism and for classrooms that include mainstreamed special-needs kids.



### [The Waiting Song](#)

*Natasha Barber | Age 3-6 | Autism spectrum disorder*

Nigel is a hedgehog. He's four years old, likes trains and cookies, and is a lot like other kids in class. Nigel is a little different, too. Nigel has autism. He doesn't talk or say many words. Nigel is not very good at taking turns or being polite, and he really does not like to wait. Nigel thought and thought and came up with the Waiting Song. Now he is able to be polite and wait when he sings his Waiting Song. The Waiting Song is for kids like Nigel.

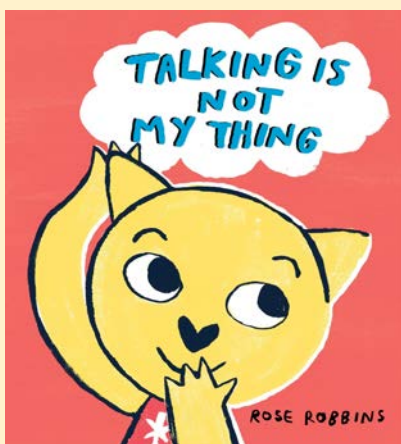


### [Different: A Great Thing to Be!](#)

*Heather Avis, Sarah Mensinga (I) | Age 3-7 | Down syndrome*

Macy is a girl who's a lot like you and me, but she's also quite different, which is a great thing to be. With kindness, grace, and bravery, Macy finds her place in the world, bringing beauty and laughter wherever she goes and leading others to find delight in the unique design of every person.

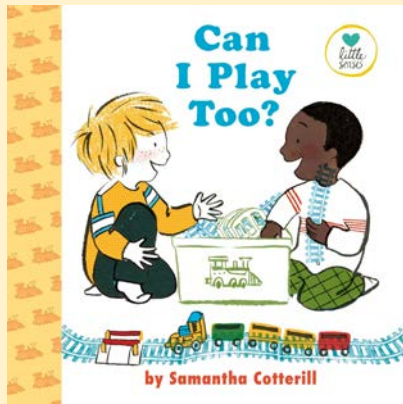
Children are naturally aware of the differences they encounter at school, in their neighborhood, and in other everyday relationships. They just need to be given tools to understand and appreciate what makes us "different," permission to ask questions about it, and eyes to see and celebrate it in themselves as well as in those around them.



### [Talking is Not My Thing](#)

*Rose Robbins | Age 3-7 | Nonverbal Autism spectrum disorder*

This little sister might not use words, but she's got plenty to say. Narrated through thought bubbles, this energetic book invites readers into the day of a nonverbal girl with autism. She has so much to do—games to play, spaghetti to eat, and a missing stuffed animal to find. Sometimes life can be noisy and overwhelming, but something new is always around the corner. Talking isn't the only way to make a joke, ask for Grandma's help, or surprise your brother...



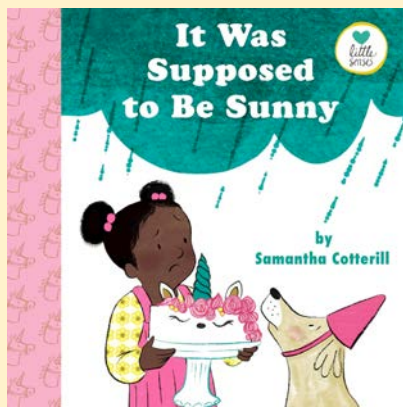
### Can I Play Too?

Samantha Cotterill | Age | Autism spectrum disorder

Friendship--and trains!--take center stage in this gentle, inviting story about paying attention to other people's feelings.

Two boys' fun train-track-building project takes a turn when one of the boys obliviously insists on only doing things his way. Their disagreement spells disaster for the train and the friendship, until a kind teacher steps in and explains how to tell when a friend is feeling happy, frustrated, or angry. . . and how to ask for a do-over.

Compromising and paying attention to how other people are feeling can be hard for any kid, but especially for kids on the autism spectrum. Samatha Cotterill's third book in the Little Senses series provides gentle guidance along with adorable illustrations to help every kid navigate the twists and turns of friendship and working together.



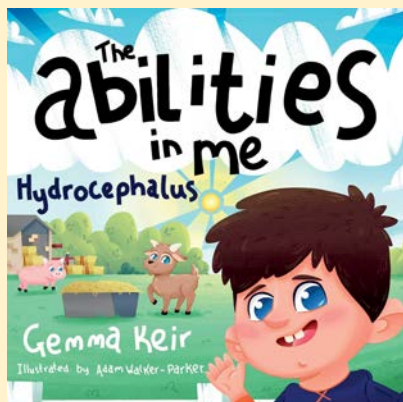
### It Was Supposed to Be Sunny

Samantha Cotterill | Age 3-7 | Autism spectrum disorder

A perfectly planned birthday party goes awry in this gentle story about adapting to the unexpected, written for kids on the autism spectrum and called "brilliant" and "engaging" by autism specialist Tony Attwood

Laila feels like her sparkly sunshine birthday celebration is on the brink of ruin when it starts to storm. Then, just as she starts feeling okay with moving her party indoors, 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.

Changes in routine can be hard for any kid, but especially for kids on the autism spectrum. Samantha Cotterill's fourth book in the Little Senses series provides gentle guidance along with adorable illustrations to help every kid navigate schedule changes and overwhelming social situations.

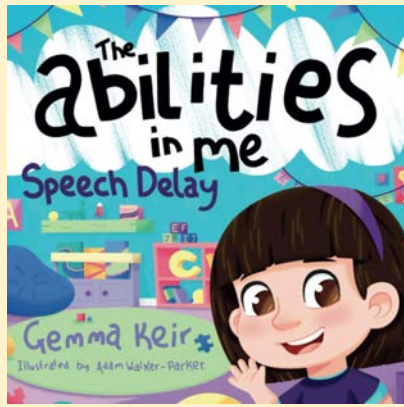


### The Abilities in Me: Hydrocephalus

Gemma Keir, Adam Walker-Parker (I) | Age 3-8 | Hydrocephalus

This picture book is dedicated to children with Hydrocephalus. Explore the day in the life of a young boy with Hydrocephalus through bright, colourful illustrations and text. Perfect for teachers, parents and children alike, this book will bring awareness of the condition and teach children how to be supportive and be kind. This is the sixth book released from The abilities in me book series. This collection of books show how each child can celebrate their abilities within their disability, find acceptance and create awareness to those around them. This picture book is aimed for children between the ages of 3-8 years. The character in the book is dedicated to Alfie Jones. Published by - The abilities in me





### [The Abilities in Me: Speech Delay](#)

*Gemma Keir, Adam Walker-Parker (I) | Age 3-8 | Speech Delay*

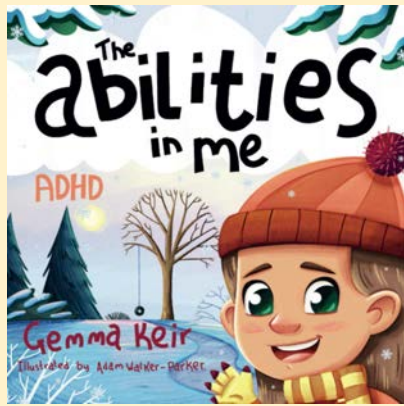
This picture book is dedicated to children with speech delay. Explore the day in the life of a young girl with speech delay through bright, colourful illustrations and text. Perfect for teachers, parents and children alike, this book will bring awareness of the condition and teach children how to be supportive and be kind. This collection of books show how each child can celebrate their abilities within their disability, find acceptance and create awareness to those around them. This picture book is aimed for children between the ages of 3-8 years. The character in the book is dedicated to Cerys Hennighan.



### [The Abilities in Me: Down Syndrome](#)

*Gemma Keir, Adam Walker-Parker (I) | Age 3-8 | Down syndrome*

This picture book is dedicated to children with Down syndrome, also known as Trisomy 21. Explore the day in the life of a young girl, through bright, colourful illustrations and text. Perfect for teachers, parents and children alike, this book will bring awareness of the condition and teach children how to be supportive and be kind. This collection of books show how each child can celebrate their abilities within their disability, find acceptance and create awareness to those around them. This picture book is aimed for children between the ages of 3-8 years. The character in the book is dedicated to Gracie Dunn.

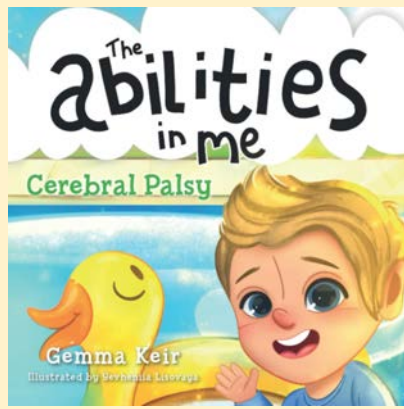


### [The Abilities in Me: ADHD](#)

*Gemma Keir, Adam Walker-Parker (I) | Age 3-8 | ADHD*

This picture book is dedicated to children with ADHD, also known as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. Explore the day in the life of a young girl with ADHD, through bright, colourful illustrations and text. Perfect for teachers, parents and children alike, this book will bring awareness of the condition and teach children how to be supportive and be kind. This collection of books show how each child can celebrate their abilities within their disability, find acceptance and create awareness to those around them. This picture book is aimed for children between the ages of 3-8 years. The character in the book is dedicated to Josie-May Golding, age 11 with ADHD.

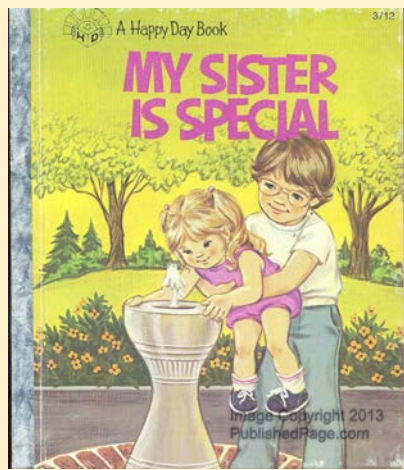




**The Abilities in Me: Cerebral Palsy**

*Gemma Keir, Yevheniia Lisovaya (I) | Age 3-8 | Cerebral palsy*

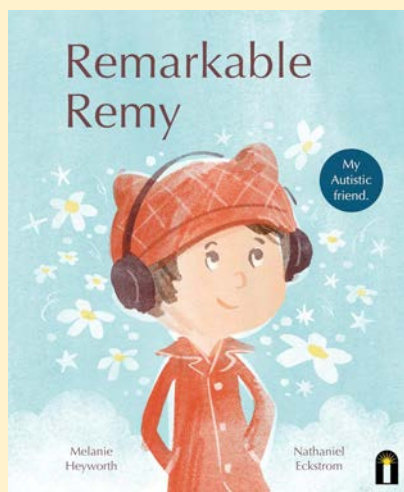
This picture book is dedicated to children diagnosed with cerebral palsy, also known as CP. Explore the day in the life of a young boy and his friends with cerebral palsy through bright, colourful illustrations and text. Perfect for teachers, parents and children alike, this book will bring awareness of the condition and teach children how to be supportive and be kind. This picture book is aimed for children between the ages of 3-8 years old. This book is inspired by Louie George Wood.



**My Sister is Special**

*Larry Jansen, Rober Pepper (I) | Age 3-8 | Down syndrome*

A young boy explains how his sister is different and special because she has Down syndrome, in a book that includes information to help parents discuss this topic from a Christian perspective.



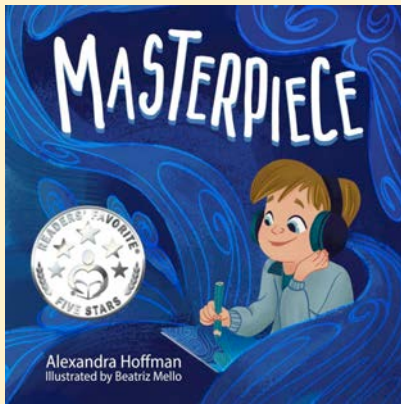
**Remarkable Remy: My Autistic Friend**

*Melanie Heyworth | Age 3+ | Autism spectrum disorder*

Remarkable Remy is a warm and optimistic story that introduces an Autistic character to a young audience. The story helps explain the Autistic brain – how it works a little differently and how unique it is – and how our neurodivergent friends make the world remarkable!

My best friend's name is Remy. I think Remy is remarkable. Remy is Autistic. That means Remy's brain works differently to my brain. I love that Remy is different to me, because Remy can teach me new ways to experience the world.

A picture book for both Autistic and non-Autistic readers aged 3 and up, Remarkable Remy illuminates the experiences and strengths of Autistic people, and the joys of having Autistic friends.



### [Masterpiece: an inclusive kids book celebrating a child on the autism spectrum](#)

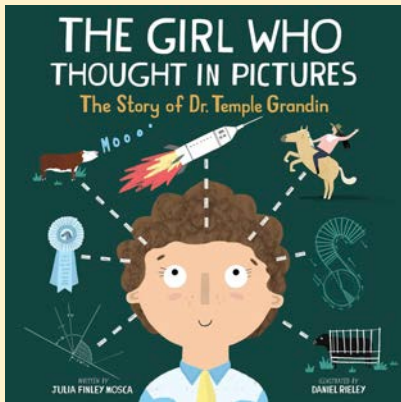
*Alexandra Hoffman, Beatriz Mello (I) | Age 4-10 | Autism spectrum disorder*

Masterpiece is an Award-winning book, recently winning The Golden Wizard Book Prize and placing as a Top 3 Finalist for Book of the Year!

Masterpiece is an inclusive story featuring Samuel, a boy on the autism spectrum who sees the world differently than his peers. When Samuel's teacher asks his class to create a piece of art, it quickly becomes apparent that his beautiful way of looking at the world makes him a true masterpiece!

Throughout the story, the other students in his class learn lessons of empathy, understanding and acceptance. The colourful illustrations will delight children and Masterpiece may just become a family favourite.

This award-winning book is suitable for all ages!



### [The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin](#)

*Julia Finley Mosca, Daniel Rieley (I) | Age 4-10 | Autism spectrum disorder*

If you've ever felt different, if you've ever been low, if you don't quite fit in, there's a name you should know. Meet Dr. Temple Grandin—one of the world's quirkiest science heroes!

When young Temple was diagnosed with autism, no one expected her to talk, let alone become one of the most powerful voices in modern science. Yet, the determined visual thinker did just that. Her unique mind allowed her to connect with animals in a special way, helping her invent groundbreaking improvements for farms around the globe.

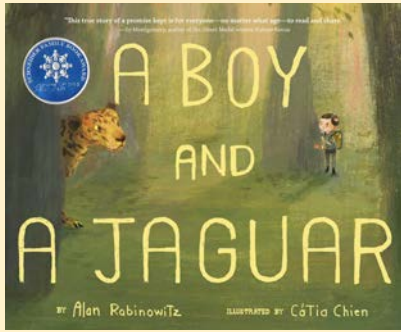
In hardcover, The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin was the first book in the educational Amazing Scientists series about the inspirational lives of amazing scientists. In addition to the illustrated rhyming tale, you'll find a complete biography, fun facts, a colorful timeline of events, and even a note from Temple herself!



### [My Big Brother Ben: An Autism Spectrum Super Story](#)

*Erin Strange, Evgeniya Parkina (I) | Age 4-12 | Autism spectrum disorder*

Max is six years old and adores his big brother Ben. They do everything together! Their parents explain that Ben has something called autism. Max doesn't fully understand what that means. He only sees how friendly, smart, and fun his brother is. My Big Brother Ben is a story that celebrates a beautiful and fulfilling relationship between two brothers, one of whom resides on the autism spectrum. Their relationship demonstrates the importance of inclusion, acceptance, and kindness, all while showing how SUPER our differences really are!



## **A Boy and a Jaguar**

*Alan Rabinowitz, Cátia Chien | Age 4-7 | Stutter*

2015 Schneider Family Book Award Winner

\* "A candid and deeply resonant account of a hard-fought battle against societal stigma, and an embrace of one's true talent and calling." —Publisher's Weekly, starred review

Speaking for the animals he loves gives one boy's life hope, purpose, and truth in this gorgeous picture book autobiography.

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? More than anything, he wants to be their champion—their voice—but he stutters uncontrollably.

Except when he talks to animals...then he is fluent.

Follow the life of the man Time Magazine calls, "the Indiana Jones of wildlife conservation" as he searches for his voice and fulfills a promise to speak for animals, and people, who cannot speak for themselves. This real-life story with tender illustrations by Catia Chien explores truths not defined by the spoken word.

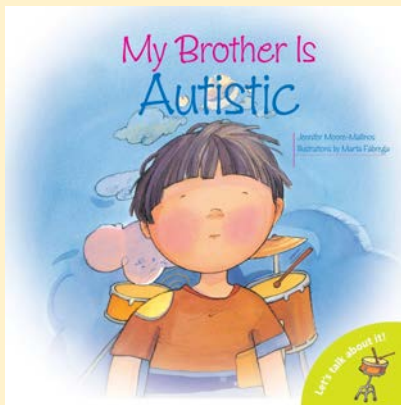
Publishers Weekly Best Book

Ezra Jack Keats New Writer Honor

Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People 2015

Winner of the 2015 Sigurd F. Olson Nature Writing Award

2015 Green Earth Book Honor book



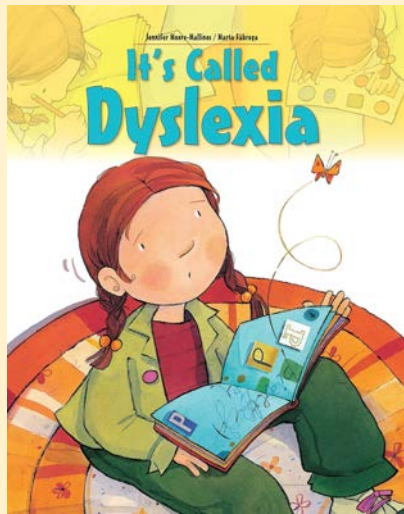
## **My Brother is Autistic**

*Jennifer Moore-Mallinos, Marta Fabrega (I) | Age 4-7 | Autism spectrum disorder*

My Brother is Autistic describes a condition that affects many families. Medical experts are just beginning to understand varying degrees of autism and its impact on both the autistic child and his family. This book describes an autistic child from his brother's point of view. It talks about ways autistic kids can be helped and how they can better relate to their family and surroundings.

The sensitively written Let's Talk About It! books encourage preschool-age and early-grade children to explore their feelings, deal with problems that trouble them, and understand others who have problems of their own. Each title speaks to a particular concern that children might encounter in the course of growing up. All books in this series have appealing color illustrations on every page. A short section at the back of each book offers related advice to parents.





**It's Called Dyslexia**

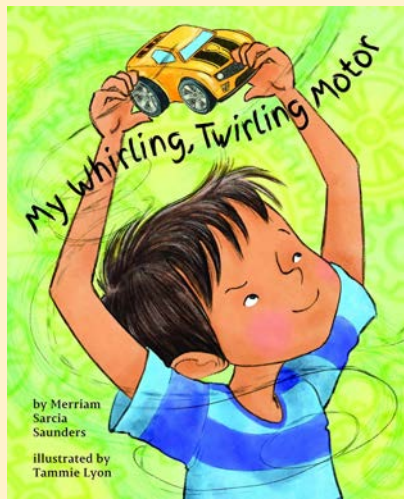
*Jennifer Moore-Mallinos, Nuria Roca | Age 4-7 | Dyslexia*

Have you ever wondered what it's like to be Dyslexic? Learn what it's like and about some of the tools that can help with overcoming Dyslexia. This sweet story is empowering and will inspire you to be the best you can be!

Perfect for anyone looking for:

- an educational book about kids with special needs
- books about kids with disabilities
- inclusive childrens books
- books for the classroom or for home

Titles in the Live and Learn series take a child's point of view—especially the view of children who either suffer from some physical challenge or lack self-confidence in going about their everyday activities. Following each story are four pages of suggested activities that relate to the book's theme. Educational backmatter offers advice to parents.



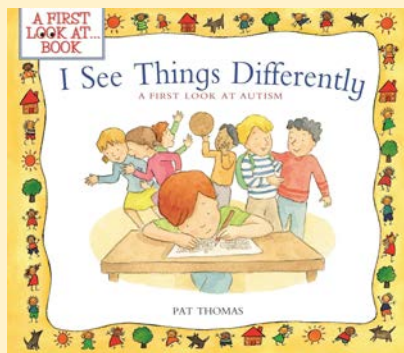
**My Whirling, Twirling Motor**

*Merriam Sarcia Saunders, Tammie Lyon (I) | Age 4-7 | ADHD*

Charlie feels like he has a whirling, twirling motor running inside him all the time and sometimes he just can't settle. When his mom wants to talk to him, he figures he's in trouble...but she has a surprise for him instead!

Includes a Note to Parents, Caregivers, and Teachers with more information on ADHD, behavior management, and helping children focus on the positives.

"The story reinforces that his being overactive and impulsive is not intentional and does not make him bad. The young narrator eventually internalizes his parents' focus on his accomplishments, rather than his challenges, and he wonders what positive things he will do tomorrow...A must-have for young readers with any type of behavior difficulty and their caregivers." —School Library Journal (Starred Review)



**I See Things Differently: A First Look at Autism**

*Pat Thomas | Age 4-7 | Autism spectrum disorder*

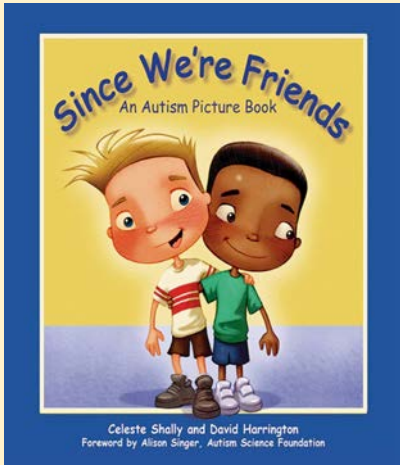
Are there kids in your life who need a gentle way to learn about autism? This book will show what autism is and how it affects someone who has it. This is a wonderful catalyst for discussion that will help children to better understand and support autistic classmates or siblings.

Parents, teachers, and gift givers will find:

- questions and concerns about autism
- simple and easily accessible material for younger children
- a helpful book written by a psychotherapist and counselor
- a whole series of books for children to explore emotional issues



The A First Look At series promote positive interaction among children, parents, and teachers, and encourage kids to ask questions and confront social and emotional questions that sometimes present problems. Books feature appealing full-color illustrations on every page plus a page of advice to parents and teachers.



### **Since We're Friends: An Autism Picture Book**

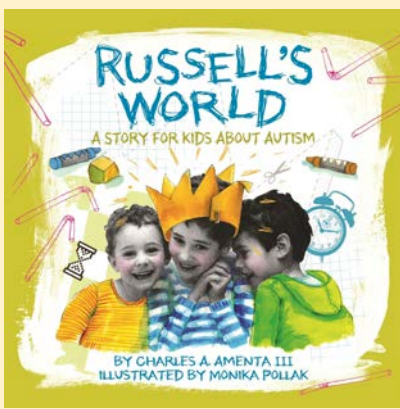
*Celeste Shally, David Harrington (I) | Age 4-8 | Autism spectrum disorder*

Ideal for fans of My Brother Charlie, All My Stripes, and I See Things Differently: A First Look at Autism. A delightful autism storybook

Matt's autism doesn't keep him from having fun! Even when he struggles in social situations, his friend is there to help him out. The two boys love playing sports watching movies, reading books, and talking about animals. By working together, a best friend's understanding and compassion change Matt's frustration into excitement.

No matter where they go—from the basketball court to the playground swings to the neighborhood pool—the two friends enjoy spending time with each other.

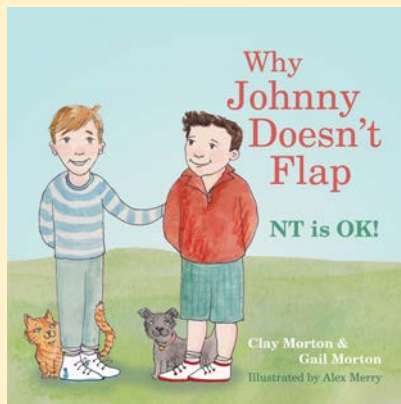
David Harrington's bright illustrations delightfully compliment Celeste Shally's sweet and touching story of friendship. This book is the perfect guide for parents and children to better understand people with autism spectrum disorders.



### **Russell's World: A Story for Kids About Autism**

*Charles A. Amenta, Monika Pollak (I) | Age 4-8 | Autism spectrum disorder*

Russell is a boy with autism. Russell is a boy with a great big smile and a family who loves him. Step into Russell's World for an inside look at a real-life family as they share their photos and stories. Kids can see just what Russell and his family experience as well as the surprises and challenges that can come with autism. An extensive Note to Parents offers concrete information about autism and gives parents tips about supporting children with autism and their siblings, getting services, and taking time for self-care.

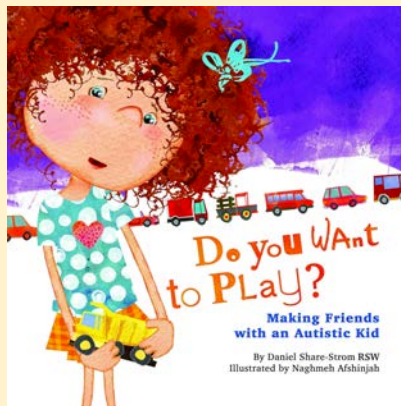


### [Why Johnny Doesn't Flap: NT is Ok!](#)

*Clay Morton, Gail Morton, Alex Merry (I) | Age 4-8 | Autism spectrum disorder*

Johnny is different. He is never exactly on time, he can't seem to stick to a routine and he often speaks in cryptic idioms. Johnny is neurotypical, but that's OK.

A picture book with a difference, *Why Johnny Doesn't Flap* turns the tables on common depictions of neurological difference by drolly revealing how people who are not on the autistic spectrum are perceived by those who are. The autistic narrator's bafflement at his neurotypical friend's quirks shows that 'normal' is simply a matter of perspective.



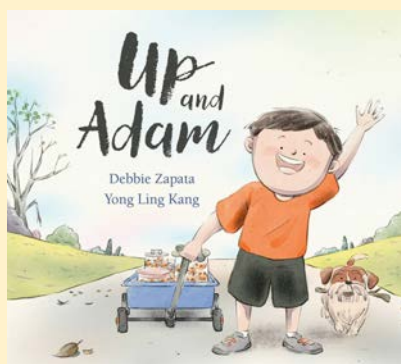
### [Do You Want to Play? Making Friends with an Autistic Kid](#)

*Daniel Share-Storm, Naghmeh Afshinjah (I) | Age 4-8 | Autism spectrum disorder*

"Do you want to play?" That's what Jamie, with her favourite yellow truck, asks new kid Dylan, who only seems to want to line up his cars. Can Jamie make a friend before Mommy comes to take her home? A heartwarming story of learning about others and finding new ways to have fun.

One of the most common issues for Autistic kids is friendship. Many other children's books on this subject often depict the neurotypical child as doing their Autistic pal a favour by befriending them, often forcing them to first change a part of themselves.

*Do You Want to Play?* takes a different approach, showing us that Autistic children are more than capable of making meaningful contributions to relationships, and suggests how typical children can alter their own approach in order to foster a true connection.



### [Up and Adam](#)

*Debbie Zapata, Yong Ling Kang (I) | Age 4-8 | Down syndrome*

A winning, uplifting story about a boy with Down syndrome who helps his neighbors in the aftermath of a storm in a way only he can. It's the morning after the big storm. Adam and his dog, Up, are finishing breakfast when Adam sees the mayor on TV asking everyone to pitch in with the cleanup. She says, "Now, it's time to get to work. Up and at 'em!" When Adam hears the mayor tell him and Up to get to work, he's on it! "We can help!" he says. All day, the pair do what they can --- clearing the sidewalk, fixing a birdhouse, passing out cookies. But it turns out, Adam's most important contribution to his community is one he doesn't even think about --- his smile. Because when anyone sees Adam smile, they smile, too. And as Adam says, "A pair of smiles can make a difference." Debbie Zapata's sweet story scores on two fronts: it features an endearing and authentic representation of a child with Down syndrome, focused on his abilities, not disabilities, and it offers an inspiring model of how everyone can make a difference in their community. Adam's Down syndrome is not referenced in the story but is addressed in an author's note, which also includes information about Down syndrome, and resources. Adam's open-hearted and infectious smile lights the pages as he lifts spirits all over town in Yong Ling Kang's illustrations, which thoughtfully feature details in Adam's clothing and belongings that are sensitive to his needs. The book is full of positive examples of community,

contributing and inclusion, and beautifully captures the character education themes of kindness, teamwork, initiative and citizenship.



### [Augie and the Monster Thieves](#)

*Gisele Lima | Age 4-8 | Autism spectrum disorder*

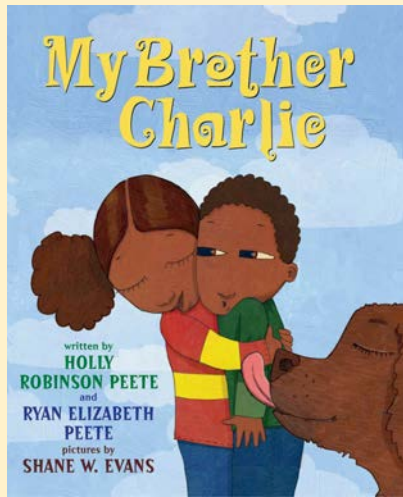
Augie and the Monster Thieves by Gisele Lima is a thrilling autism book for kids that follows the journey of Augie, a unique character who is both autistic and possesses extraordinary abilities. Augie's day takes an exciting turn when he meets Mila, a young girl who believes that something precious for her has been stolen. Together, Augie and Mila embark on a fun adventure that takes them through unfamiliar territories where they encounter various challenges. Along the way, Augie's superpowers come in handy, and his unique perspective on the world helps him navigate situations that would otherwise be impossible for most. In this autism acceptance book, the central theme is celebrating differences and showing that everyone has something special to offer. The author expertly integrates subtle behaviors commonly linked with Autism Spectrum Disorders, including the use of sensory management tools worn by Augie, into the fabric of the storyline in this book with pictures. This inclusive story aims to remove some of the stigma associated with autism and promotes autism awareness. It is a heartwarming tale that inspires readers to embrace their uniqueness and highlights the importance of empathy and friendship. This autism toddler book is perfect for children and adults alike who enjoy action, adventure, and learning about different perspectives.



### [A Dog and His Boy: The Adventures of Spillway & Scotty](#)

*Heidi Bullen, Liza Wentzell, Claudia Diller (I) | Age 4-8 | Chromosomal disorder*

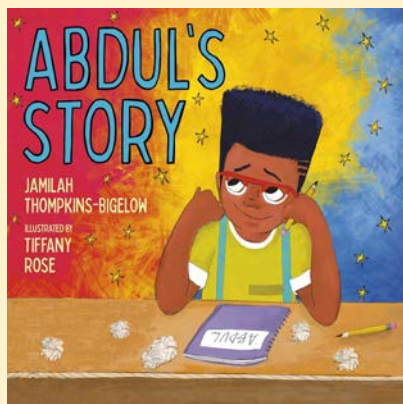
No matter where they go, Scotty and his special stuffed dog, Spillway, always have fun together. Although Scotty was born with a chromosomal disorder that causes developmental delays, with Spillway by his side, there are always adventures to be had! Join Spillway as he takes you on a journey through Scotty's life where they experience acceptance, empathy, and inclusion during their unique time together.



### [My Brother Charlie](#)

*Holly Robinson Peete, Ryan Elizabeth Peete, Shane Evans (I) | Age 4-8 | Autism spectrum disorder*

From bestselling author and actress Holly Robinson Peete—a heartwarming story about a boy who happens to be autistic, based on Holly's son, who has autism. "Charlie has autism. His brain works in a special way. It's harder for him to make friends. Or show his true feelings. Or stay safe." But as his big sister tells us, for everything that Charlie can't do well, there are plenty more things that he's good at. He knows the names of all the American presidents. He knows stuff about airplanes. And he can even play the piano better than anyone he knows. Actress and national autism spokesperson Holly Robinson Peete collaborates with her daughter on this book based on Holly's 10-year-old son, who has autism.



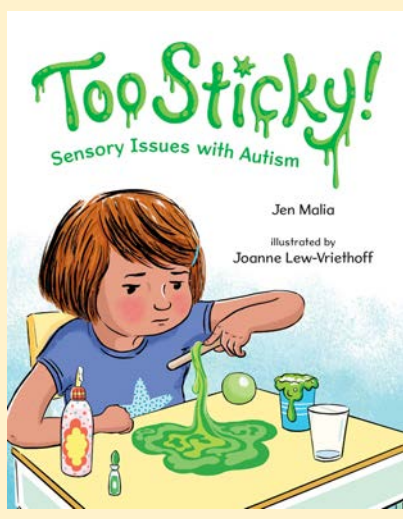
### [Abdul's Story](#)

*Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow, Tiffany Rose (I) | Age 4-8 | Dyslexia*

A 2022 New York Public Library Best Book for Kids!

A little boy who loves storytelling but struggles with writing learns that it's okay to make mistakes in this charming and encouraging picture book from the author of Mommy's Khimar.

Abdul loves to tell stories. But writing them down is hard. His letters refuse to stay straight and face the right way. And despite all his attempts, his papers often wind up with more eraser smudges than actual words. Abdul decides his stories just aren't meant to be written down...until a special visitor comes to class and shows Abdul that even the best writers—and superheroes—make mistakes.



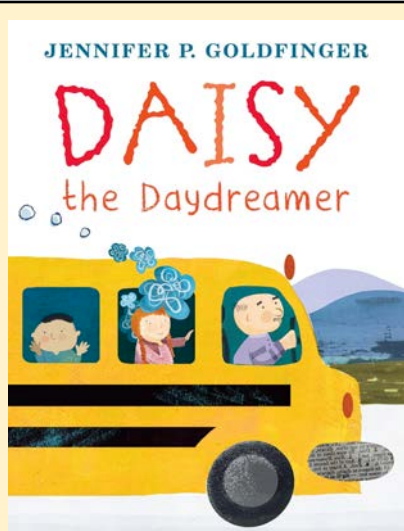
### [Too Sticky!: Sensory Issues with Autism](#)

*Jen Malia | Age 4-8 | Autism spectrum disorder*

Holly loves experiments but doesn't like sticky things—how will she make slime?

Holly loves doing experiments and learning new things in science class. But when she finds out the next experience is making slime, she's worried. Slime is made with glue, and glue is sticky. Holly has sensory issues because of her autism and doesn't like anything sticky. With help from family and her teacher, Holly receives the accommodations and encouragement she needs to give slime a try.





## [Daisy the Daydreamer](#)

*Jennifer P. Goldfinger | Age 4-8 | ADHD*

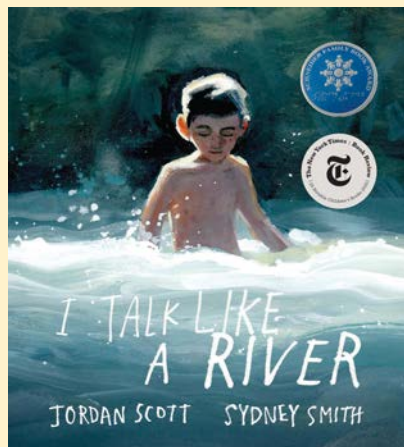
Daisy's head is always in the clouds, but she still cares about things on the ground—she just needs to find her own way to prove it.

No matter where she is or what she's doing, Daisy's imagination kicks in to make things more interesting. Her braids become fishing rods; the teeter totter launches her into space; the swings let her fly like a superhero. Most of the time, it's great fun.

But sometimes it causes trouble. She folds the little brother she's supposed to be feeding and feeds the socks she should fold. Worst of all, Daisy longs to be line leader on a field trip to the aquarium, but the job is reserved for whoever can listen best to a lesson on octopuses. As hard as she tries, Daisy just can't keep the distracted clouds from rolling over her head.

Still, Daisy is determined to show her teacher what she's learned, in a way that works for her—she can draw! Daisy pours her heart into an illustrated guide to the octopus, and earns her own special job, as the field trip's official artist.

Brimming with Jennifer P. Goldfinger's humor and whimsy, *Daisy the Daydreamer* celebrates every child who yearns to be appreciated for who they are, not criticized for what they aren't. Daydreamers, doodlers, and free spirits alike will empathize with Daisy, and cheer her on as she becomes her own advocate.



## [I Talk Like a River](#)

*Jordan Scott, Sydney Smith (I) | Age 4-8 | Stuttering*

What if words got stuck in the back of your mouth whenever you tried to speak? What if they never came out the way you wanted them to?

Sometimes it takes a change of perspective to get the words flowing.

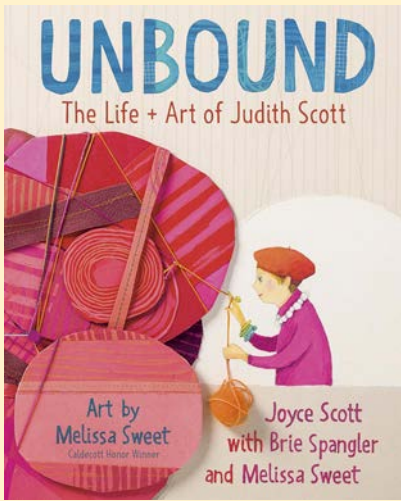
A New York Times Best Children's Book of the Year

I wake up each morning with the sounds of words all around me.

And I can't say them all . . .

When a boy who stutters feels isolated, alone, and incapable of communicating in the way he'd like, it takes a kindly father and a walk by the river to help him find his voice. Compassionate parents everywhere will instantly recognize a father's ability to reconnect a child with the world around him.

Poet Jordan Scott writes movingly in this powerful and ultimately uplifting book, based on his own experience, and masterfully illustrated by Sydney Smith, winner of the Hans Christian Andersen Award, the highest international distinction given to author and illustrators of children's books. A book for any child who feels lost, lonely, or unable to fit in.



### [Unbound: The Life and Art of Judith Scott](#)

*Joyce Scott, Brie Spangler, Melissa Sweet | Age 4-8 | Down syndrome*

A moving and powerful introduction to the life and art of renowned artist, Judith Scott, as told by her twin sister, Joyce Scott and illustrated by Caldecott Honor artist, Melissa Sweet.

Judith Scott was born with Down syndrome. She was deaf, and never learned to speak. She was also a talented artist. Judith was institutionalized until her sister Joyce reunited with her and enrolled her in an art class. Judith went on to become an artist of renown with her work displayed in museums and galleries around the world.

Poignantly told by Joyce Scott in collaboration with Brie Spangler and Melissa Sweet and beautifully illustrated by Caldecott Honor artist, Melissa Sweet, Unbound is inspiring and warm, showing us that we can soar beyond our perceived limitations and accomplish something extraordinary.



### [Sam's Super Seats](#)

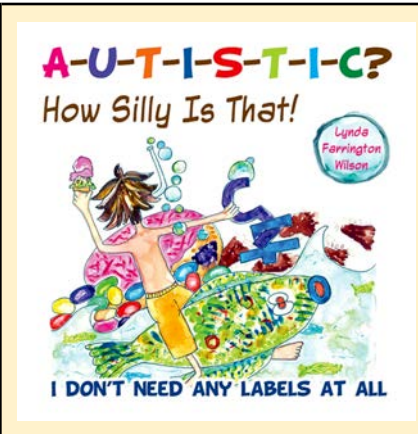
*Keah Brown | Age 4-8 | Cerebral palsy*

A joyful picture book about a disabled girl with cerebral palsy who goes back-to-school shopping with her best friends, from #DisabledandCute creator and The Pretty One author Keah Brown.

Sam loves herself, learning, and making her family and friends laugh. She also loves comfortable seats, including a graceful couch named after Misty Copeland and Laney, the sassy backseat of Mom's car.

After a busy morning of rest, Sam and her friends try on cute outfits at the mall and imagine what the new school year might bring. It's not until Sam feels tired, and the new seat she meets isn't so super, that she discovers what might be her best idea all day.

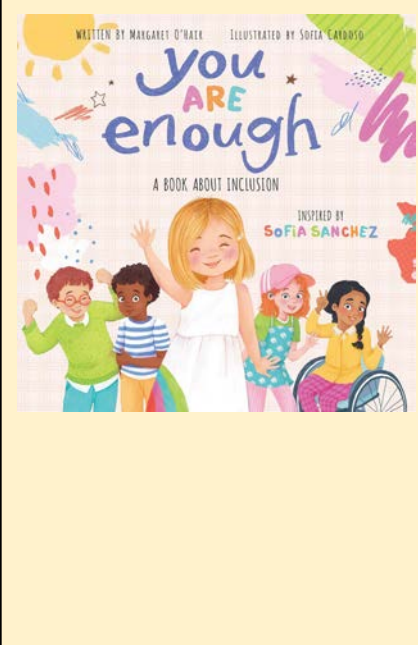
With hilarious, charming text by Keah Brown and exuberant illustrations by Sharee Miller, Sam's Super Seats celebrates the beauty of self-love, the power of rest, and the necessity of accessible seating in public spaces. Includes narrative description of art for those with low/limited vision.



**[Autistic? How Silly Is That? I Don't Need Any Labels At All!](#)**  
 Lynda Farrington Wilson | Age 4-8 | Autism spectrum disorder

Winner of a Preferred Choice Award from Creative Child Magazine!

The first book of its kind that tells children with autism they are KIDS with autism, as it gently pokes fun of the onerous label "autistic." Readers will feel better about themselves after reading about their new friend, the narrator, who also has autism—as well as many other more important characteristics. Having autism is just one small part of his overall character and humanity, and we would never again label him as simply "autistic."



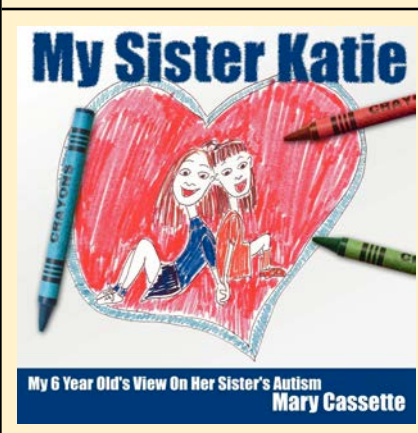
**[You Are Enough: A Book About Inclusion](#)**  
 Margaret O'Hair, Sofia Sanchez | Age 4-8 | Down syndrome

A beautiful and inclusive picture book all about celebrating being yourself from Down syndrome advocate and viral sensation Sofia Sanchez! It can be hard to be different -- whether because of how you look, where you live, or what you can or can't do. But wouldn't it be boring if we were all the same? Being different is great! Being different is what makes you YOU.

This inclusive and empowering picture book from Sofia Sanchez -- an 11-year-old model and actress with Down syndrome -- reminds readers how important it is to embrace your differences, be confident, and be proud of who you are. Imagine all of the wonderful things you can do if you don't let anyone stop you! You are enough just how you are.

Sofia is unique, but her message is universal: We all belong. So each spread features beautiful, full-color illustrations of a full cast of kid characters with all kinds of backgrounds, experiences, and abilities.

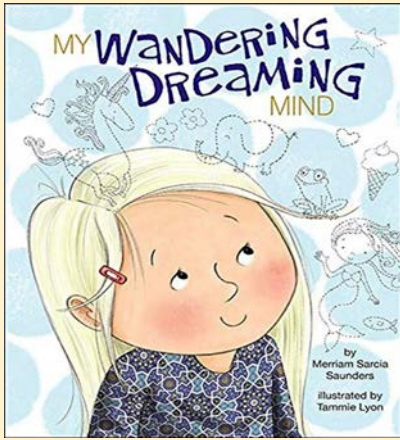
This book also includes back matter with a brief bio of Sofia and her journey so far, as well as additional information about Down syndrome and how we can all be more accepting, more inclusive, and more kind.



**[My Sister Katie: My 6 Year Old's View on Her Sister's Autism](#)**  
 Mary Cassette | Age 4-8 | Autism spectrum disorder

How do you explain autism to a child? What do you say to a little girl or little boy when they don't understand why their sister acts different, or why their cousin doesn't talk? With so many children being diagnosed with autism, soon every child will know someone who is affected by this condition. This book speaks to children on their level, with friendly words to explain how autism makes a child different, and how they themselves can deal with it. It also shows how different each autistic child is from the other, so they are not thought to be all the same.





### [My Wandering Dreaming Mind](#)

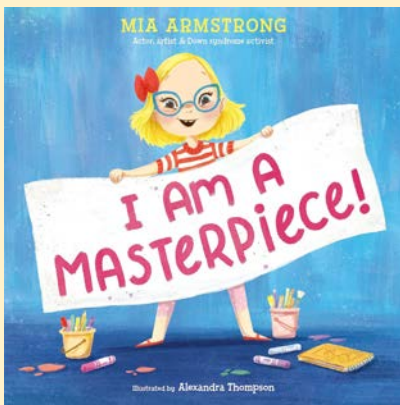
*Merriam Sarcia Saunders, Tammie Lyon (I) | Age 4-8 | ADHD*

"Children who get distracted easily will relate to Sadie and will realize they can focus on their positive qualities." —Oregon Coast Youth Book Preview Center

Sadie feels like her thoughts are soaring into the clouds and she can't bring them back down to earth. She has trouble paying attention, which makes keeping track of schoolwork, friends, chores, and everything else really tough. Sometimes she can only focus on her mistakes.

When Sadie talks to her parents about her wandering, dreaming mind, they offer a clever plan to help remind Sadie how amazing she is.

Includes a Note to Parents and Caregivers with more information on ADHD, self-esteem, and helping children focus on the positives.



### [I am a Masterpiece!](#)

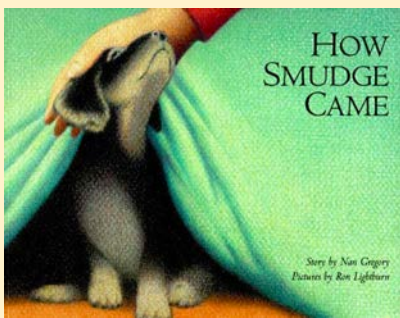
*Mia Armstrong, Alexandra Thompson (I) | Age 4-8 | Down syndrome*

Tween actress Mia Armstrong celebrates her fun, funny, beautiful childhood living with Down syndrome in this debut picture book.

Mia likes many of the things other people like—going to the beach, the color blue, drawing. But she doesn't like when strangers stare at her because she looks different from them.

Down syndrome allows Mia to see and understand the world in a way that may not make sense to others. She considers it her superpower—and instead of it making her strange, she considers herself a masterpiece. As we all are.

In this sparkling picture book, Mia offers a glimpse into the life of a child with Down syndrome, helping some readers see themselves in a book and helping others understand those friends, classmates, and family members who are neurodivergent.

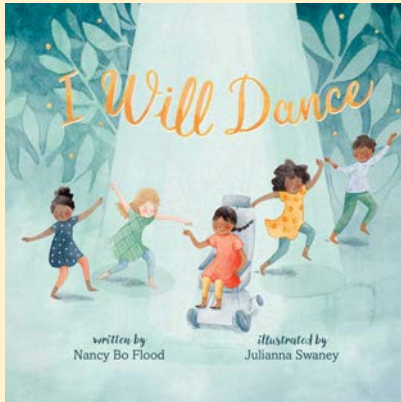


### [How Smudge Came](#)

*Nan Gregory, Ron Lightburn (I) | Age 4-8 | Down syndrome*

"You respond to the universal pet story before the illustrations show that Cindy is a young woman with Down's syndrome. [This book] is remarkable in telling it as Cindy sees it. Lightburn's realistic pictures in soft-tone colored pencil have the same beautiful sense of fragility, steadfastness, and connection."—Booklist (starred review)





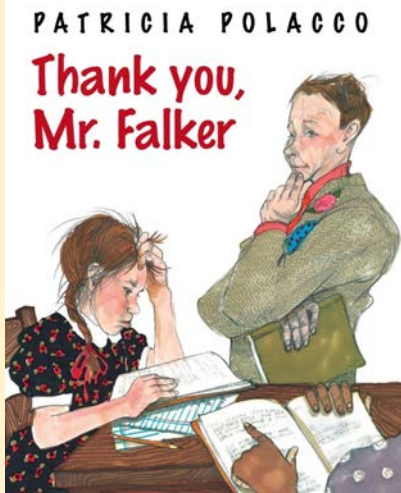
### [I Will Dance](#)

*Nancy Bo Flood, Julianna Swaney (I) | Age 4-8 | Cerebral palsy*

This poetic and uplifting picture book illustrated by the #1 New York Times bestselling illustrator of *We Are the Gardeners* by Joanna Gaines follows a young girl born with cerebral palsy as she pursues her dream of becoming a dancer.

Like many young girls, Eva longs to dance. But unlike many would-be dancers, Eva has cerebral palsy. She doesn't know what dance looks like for someone who uses a wheelchair.

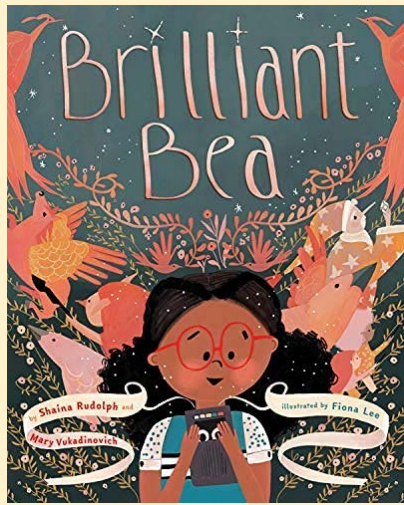
Then Eva learns of a place that has created a class for dancers of all abilities. Her first movements in the studio are tentative, but with the encouragement of her instructor and fellow students, Eva becomes more confident. Eva knows she's found a place where she belongs. At last her dream of dancing has come true.



### [Thank You, Mr. Falker](#)

*Patricia Polacco | Age 4-8 | Learning disability*

Trisha loves school but has difficulty learning to read. Until a new teacher helps her understand and helps her find a solution. An autobiographical tribute to Polacco's fifth-grade teacher, the first adult to recognize her learning disability and to help her learn to read.

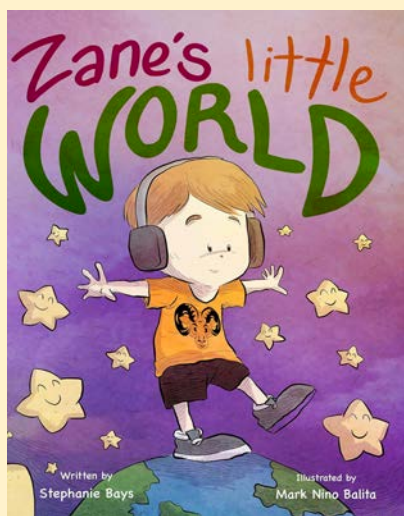


### **Brilliant Bea**

*Shaina Rudolph, Mary Vukadinovich, Fiona Lee (I) | Age 4-8 | Dyslexia*

An endearing and empowering story that demonstrates that a learning difference like dyslexia doesn't define who you are.

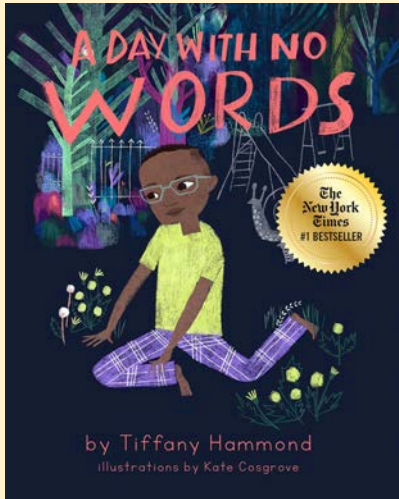
Despite her struggles with reading and writing, Beatrice is a natural and brilliant storyteller. With the help of a kind-hearted teacher, Beatrice uses an old-fashioned tape recorder so she can speak her words and then play them back, as a technique for learning in whole new way. With her new approach, Beatrice is able to show her classmates who she really has been all along.



### **Zane's Little World**

*Stephanie Bays, Mark Balita (I) | Age 4-8 | Nonverbal Autism spectrum disorder*

Zane is a mysterious boy with non-verbal autism. His words are all hidden away, leaving those around him to wonder what he may want or need. Zane's Little World is an illuminating story, with charming illustration, that guides children to better understand their neurodiverse peers through awareness and empathy. It serves as a valuable classroom resource by promoting inclusion and acceptance, while opening the door to insightful and engaging conversations about children with unique needs.



## [A Day With No Words](#)

*Tiffany Hammond | Age 4-8 | Autism spectrum disorder*

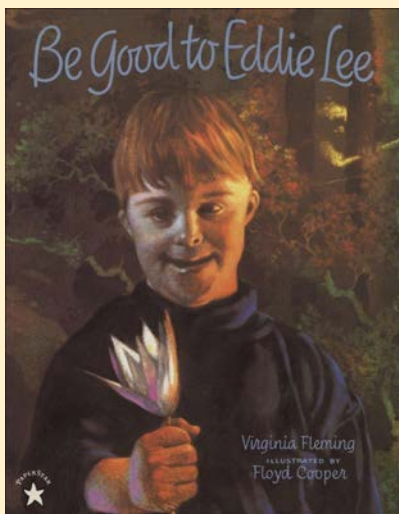
An instant #1 New York Times bestselling picture book and Dolly Gray Award winner! A Day With No Words invites readers into the life of an Autism Family who communicates just as the child does, without spoken language.

The American Library Association Booklist starred review boasts, “The story is written from the boy’s first-person perspective, however—a clever choice in that it gives readers a direct look into his mind and reinforces the book’s crucial statement that nonverbal people have as many words and as much intelligence as anyone else. Cosgrove’s art, throughout, does an amazing job of transporting readers into his perspective, employing various color tones, metaphoric imagery, and ‘camera’ angles to reflect the deep expressiveness contained in every page [...] through this book, neurotypicals’ eyes will be opened, and everyone in Autistic Families will feel seen—and heard.”

A Day With No Words is a colorful and engaging picture book for young readers shares what life can look like for families who use nonverbal communication, utilizing tools to embrace their unique method of “speaking.”

The story highlights the bond between mother and child and follows them on a day where they use a tablet to communicate with others.

Written by an autistic mother of two autistic sons and the creator behind the popular @Fidgets.and.Fries social media platform and illustrated by Kate Cosgrove (IG @k8cosgrove), A Day With No Words successfully normalizes communication methods outside of verbal speech and provides representation of neurodiversity and autism in a way that affirms and celebrates.



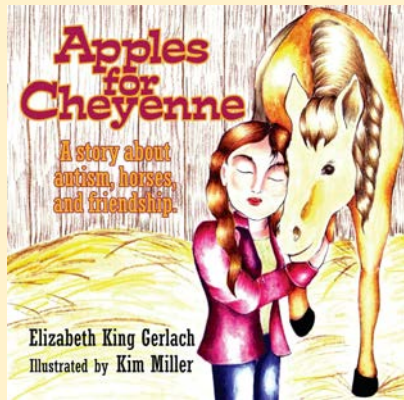
## [Be Good to Eddie Lee](#)

*Virginia Fleming, Floyd Cooper (I) | Age 4-8 | Down syndrome*

Christy’s mother always tells her to be good to Eddie Lee, a neighborhood child with Down’s Syndrome. But Christy wants to run and play -- and not worry about Eddie Lee tagging along. One hot summer day, though, Eddie Lee takes Christy to a secret place in the woods and teaches her that beautiful things can be found in unexpected places.

"What makes Fleming's first book so effective are the carefully selected details and authentic portrayal of the children's attitudes -- as well as Cooper's luminous art, summoning up all the enchantment of a lovely summer day and presenting Eddie Lee as believably endearing". -- Kirkus Reviews, pointer review

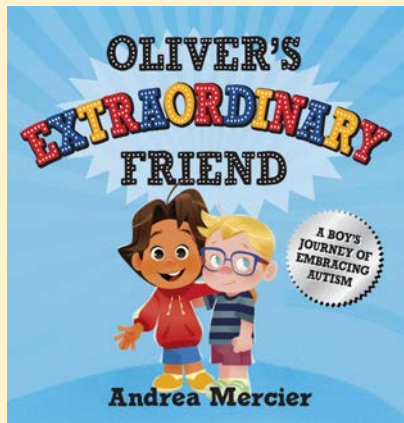
"(A book) that can lead children away from harmful stereotypes and labels". -- Book Links



**Apples for Cheyenne: A Story About Autism, Horses, and Friendship**

*Elizabeth K. Gerlach, Kim Miller (I) | Age 4-9 | Autism spectrum disorder*

Apples for Cheyenne is an engaging children's book about a girl with autism who finds friendship through her time with Cheyenne, a gentle horse. Follow Rachel and her friends as they go on a horseback riding adventure. Children will delight in this heartwarming tale while also learning about autism and other disabilities.



**Oliver's Extraordinary Friend: A Boy's Journey of Embracing Autism**

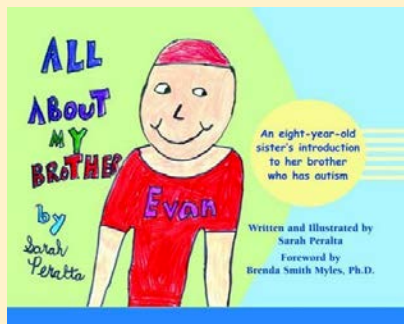
*Andrea Mercier, Wandson Rocha (I) | Age 4+ | Autism spectrum disorder*

Oliver's Extraordinary Friend tells the heartwarming tale of Oliver and his new friend, Gabriel.

At first, Oliver feels uncertain about Gabriel's differences that are caused by his autism, but soon he discovers the magic of their friendship. As they embark on adventures together, Oliver learns the power of love and kindness and comes to appreciate Gabriel's unique perspective and talents.

Through gentle storytelling and vibrant illustrations, author Andrea Mercier explores themes of empathy, acceptance, and the beauty of diversity, cultivating these important values in young readers. The discussion questions and helpful definitions she includes create a natural starting point for family conversations about autism.

This delightful children's book not only celebrates the bond between Oliver and Gabriel but also fosters understanding and compassion for children with autism. Oliver's Extraordinary Friend is a touching reminder that our differences are what make us extraordinary and that true friendship knows no bounds.

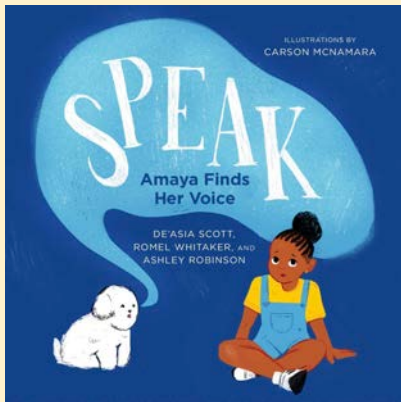


**All About My Brother: An Eight-Year-Old Sister's Introduction to Her Brother Who Has Autism**

*Sarah Peralta | Age 4+ | Autism spectrum disorder*

This is an invaluable contribution to helping typically developing children understand that a child with autism is a child first, and is someone interesting to know. Sarah gives insight into the sibling relationship in a way only a child can do it. Through her simple depictions of her brother Evan's everyday behavior, Sarah encourages others to approach autism without fear or pity. The effects of her book will live long beyond the last pages, as Sarah invites her young readers to share ideas for how to live with siblings or classmates who have autism spectrum disorders. The book is heart-warming and introspective and the writing style makes it appropriate for children and adults alike.





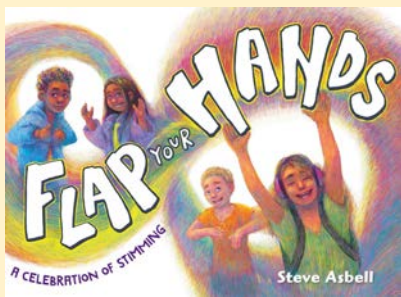
### [Speak: Amaya Finds Her Voice](#)

*De'Asia Scott, Romel Whitaker, Ashley Robinson, Carson McNamara (I) | Age 5-10 | Stutter*

It's Amaya's first month at a new school in a new state, and she's too scared to speak. Amaya has a stutter. At her old school she got bullied for how she talked, but she had finally just started making friends. And then her mom got a new job and moved them to DC, where she had to start all over again! Now Amaya is mad at her mom and scared at school. The only friend she shares her feelings with is her dog, Journey, who can talk back! If Amaya doesn't start speaking soon, she'll keep getting in trouble and will never make friends. Can Journey and her classmates help Amaya find her voice?

The authors of this story are part of an innovative program run by Reach Incorporated. Reach develops grade-level readers and capable leaders by preparing teens to serve as tutors and role models for younger students, resulting in improved literacy outcomes for both. Learn more at [reachincorporated.org](http://reachincorporated.org).

Books were created in collaboration with Shout Mouse Press. Shout Mouse is a nonprofit writing program and publishing house for unheard voices. Through writing workshops designed for all levels of literacy, Shout Mouse empowers writers from marginalized backgrounds to tell their own stories in their own voices and, as published authors, to act as agents of change. Learn more at [shoutmousepress.org](http://shoutmousepress.org)



### [Flap Your Hands: A Celebration of Stimming](#)

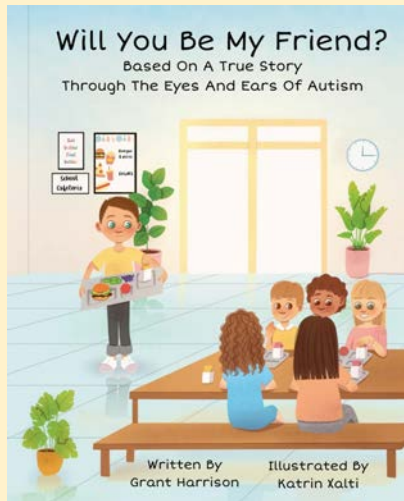
*Steve Asbell | Age 5-10 | Autism spectrum disorder*

This fascinating, groundbreaking picture book by an autistic creator celebrates stims--the repetitive movements that provide focused stimulation to people on the autistic spectrum.

When you're feeling overwhelmed  
And the world's too much to bear...  
If your feelings bubble over  
But they have no place to go...  
Maybe it would help to move!  
Want to try a stim?

When four neurodivergent kids face some stressful moments, they use body movements called stims to self-regulate their emotions. One boy tickles the space next to his face; a girl flutters her fingers by her ears; another boy kicks his feet like splashy flippers; another girl directs her hands like a conductor! As the children say fun words, flap their hands, and engage in other stims, their actions build in energy and joyousness until their inner calm is restored.

Delightful text and color-drenched illustrations by debut author-illustrator Steve Asbell invites other neurodivergent readers to join in on the action. Flap Your Hands is a wonderful celebration and reminder that stimming is a natural and healthy thing to do!



## [Will You Be My Friend: Based On A True Story Through The Eyes And Ears of Autism](#)

*Grant Harrison, Tracy Bruce-Harrison, Katrin Xalti (I) | Age 5-12 | Autism spectrum disorder*

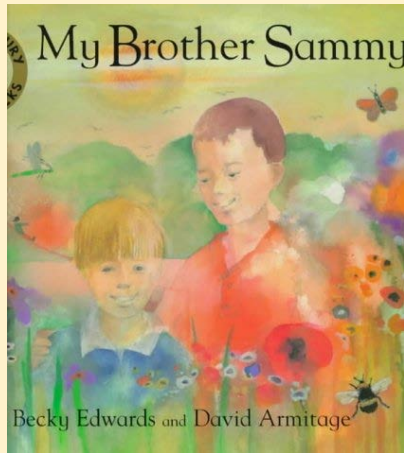
Hello, my name is Grant Harrison and I have high-functioning Autism called Asperger's.

I am so excited to have this opportunity to share my children's book "Will You Be My Friend" based on a true story through the eyes and ears of Autism with so many people.

If you're looking for a fun inspirational true story about a boy who feels that he doesn't fit in with other kids in school until he is teamed up with a new student for the school talent show. She shows him that he's not so different from many other kids in his school, and it's okay to be you.

This is based on an actual event that happened in my life and by sharing this story I hope that I can inspire other kids to step out of their comfort zones the same way I have.

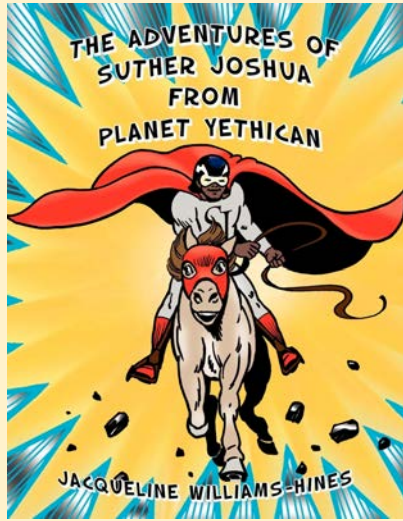
I don't look at having Autism as a disability but as more of a challenge. It makes me work harder to move those mountains that so many times block the path to where I want to go.



## [My Brother Sammy Is Special](#)

*Becky Edwards, David Armitage (I) | Age 5-6 | Autism spectrum disorder*

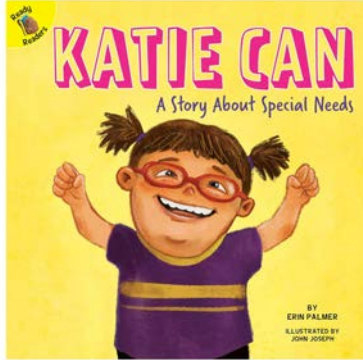
Sammy does not go to school with his older brother. Sammy has to go to school on a special bus. They cannot play in the park together. Sammy lies under the tree and watches the leaves. They are constantly at cross purposes because Sammy is autistic and does not know how to be a 'normal brother.' Then one day the older brother realises that he should not demand everything on his own terms and that Sammy's way of doing things may not be so bad. This moving book realistically portrays life with an autistic child in the family. It does not promise any simple solution but reminds us all that understanding and compromise are vital ingredients in a good relationship.



### **The Adventures of Suther Joshua From Planet Yethican**

*Jacqueline Williams-Hines | Age 5-6 | Autism spectrum disorder*

Joshua is at it again!! Sometimes Joshua gets caught up in an autistic world all his own and others find it hard to communicate. But oh what wonderful things he imagines in his mind. The kids on his street keep wondering exactly what it is the little boy on the big bike with the funny looking training wheels is saying as he breezes by loopily!!! But Joshua is more than just a kid on a big bike...he is a superhero....He is Suther Joshua riding his superhorse Delta!!! Come and join us, and see what adventures Joshua takes us on today... and learn a little more about autism at the same time!!!



### **Katie Can: A Story About Special Needs--Children's Book About Down Syndrome and Different Abilities**

*Erin Palmer, John Joseph (I) | Age 5-7 | Down syndrome*

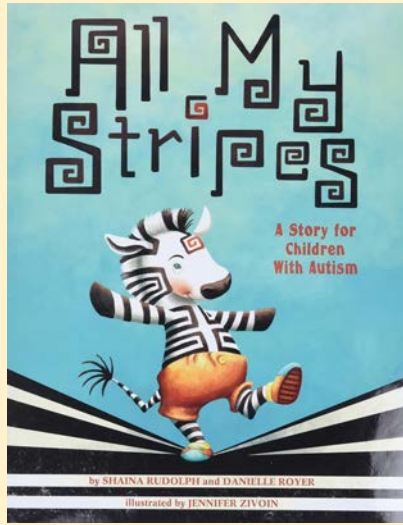
**The Magic of Reading:** Introduce your child to the magic of reading with Katie Can: A Story About Special Needs. This 24-page book features colorful illustrations and short, simple language to practice early reading comprehension skills.

**Hands-On Reading Adventure:** Katie has Down Syndrome, but that's not what makes her so special. Find out what makes Katie so unique!

**Features:** More than just an engaging book about different abilities, differences, and acceptance, this kids book also includes a vocabulary list, reading tips and activities, as well as comprehension questions

**Leveled Books:** This early reading book engages kindergarteners—2nd graders with leveled text, vocabulary, colorful illustrations, and important, high-interest topics like diversity and unique abilities to promote essential early reading skills.

**Why Rourke Educational Media:** Since 1980, Rourke Publishing Company has specialized in publishing engaging and diverse non-fiction and fiction books for children in a wide range of subjects that support reading success on a level that has no limits.



**All My Stripes: A Story for Children with Autism**

*Shaina Rudolph, Danielle Royer, Jennifer Zivoin (I) | Age 5-7 | Autism spectrum disorder*

Zane the zebra often feels different. He worries that his classmates don't notice his "curiosity," "honesty," or "caring stripes," just his "autism stripe." With the help of his Mama, Zane comes to appreciate all his stripes, including his "autism stripe," as the unique strengths that make him who he is.

Includes a Reading Guide with additional background information about autism spectrum disorders and a Note to Parents and Caregivers with tips for finding support.



**My Friend Has Autism**

*Amanda Doering Tourville, Kristin Caraan Sorra (I) | Age 5-8 | Autism spectrum disorder*

My friend Zack has a disability called autism. But that doesn't matter to us. We talk about airplanes, build models, and enjoy hanging out at each other's house. I'm glad Zack is my friend!

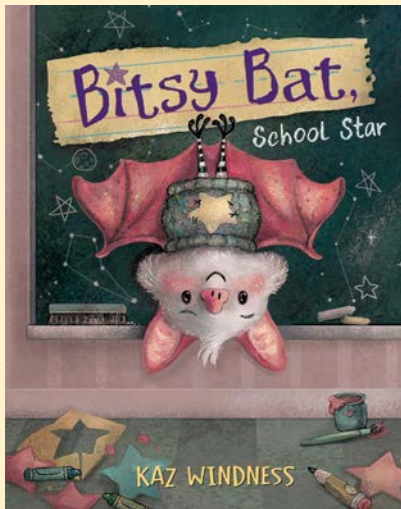


**Little Rainman: Autism Through the Eyes of a Child**

*Karen L. Simmons | Age 5-8 | Autism spectrum disorder*

Recommended by world-renowned author and speaker Dr. Temple Grandin, this children's book paints a picture of what life is like for children with autism. Unique illustrations accompany a child's voice as he explains the different ways he thinks, sees, hears, and feels. This book is great for reading to children with or without autism to encourage acceptance and understanding. Written by Karen Simmons-Sicoli, mother of a son with autism and the founder of Autism Today, this was one of the first books of its kind and it continues to be a classic in the autism community.





### **Bitsy Bat, School Star**

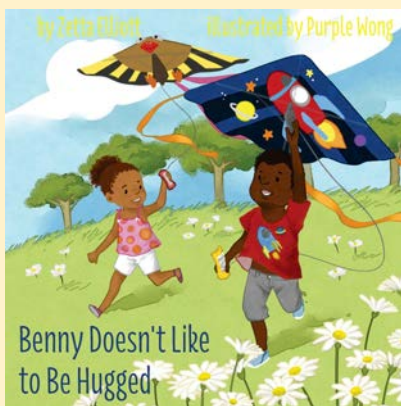
*Kaz Windness | Age 5-8 | Autism spectrum disorder*

A little bat struggles to fit in only to learn to celebrate differences in this “darling book for all children but especially those with autism” (Kirkus Reviews, starred review) from Theodor Seuss Geisel Honor–winning author-illustrator Kaz Windness about starting school, making friends, and seeing what makes each person special.

Bitsy is a little bat with big star dreams of making friends at her new school. But when she arrives, Bitsy doesn’t feel like she fits in. The other kids sit on their chairs, but sitting upright makes Bitsy dizzy. The other kids paint with their fingers, but Bitsy would rather use her toes. Everyone tells Bitsy she’s doing things wrong-wrong-wrong, so she tries harder...and ends up having a five-star meltdown.

Now Bitsy feels like a very small star and doesn’t want to go back to school. But with help from her family, Bitsy musters her courage, comes up with a new plan, and discovers that being a good friend is just one of the ways she shines bright!

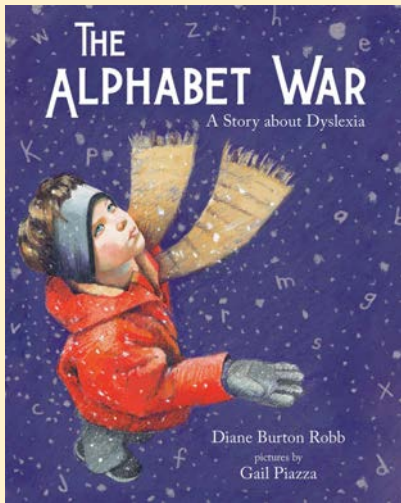
Backmatter includes a More About Autism facts page, making this “a particularly helpful resource for all kids” (BookPage, starred review).



### **Benny Doesn't Like to Be Hugged**

*Zetta Elliott, Purple Wong (I) | Age 5-8 | Autism spectrum disorder*

A little girl uses rhyming verse to describe the unique traits of her autistic friend. Benny likes trains and cupcakes without sprinkles, but he can also be fussy sometimes. The narrator doesn’t mind, however, because “true friends accept each other just the way they are.” A gentle story encouraging children to appreciate and accept our differences.



### [The Alphabet War](#)

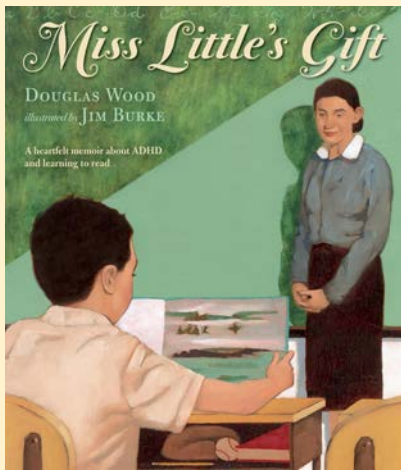
*Diane Burton Robb, Gail Piazza (I) | Age 5-9 | Dyslexia*

Best Children's Books of the Year, Bank Street College

Why was reading so hard?

When Adam started kindergarten, the teacher wanted him to learn about letters. But "p" looked like "q," and "b" looked like "d." Adam would rather color or mold clay. In first grade, his teacher wanted him to put the letters into words so he could read. That was the beginning of the Alphabet War. "Was" looked like "saw," and "there" looked like "then." Almost everyone else in his class was learning to read, but Adam was fighting a war against letters.

In second grade, he had to learn to spell, which was also impossible. Now he was so frustrated he got into trouble and had to go to the principal's office. At last, in third grade, he got the right kind of help. Slowly he began to do better. During fourth grade, he learned that he could excel in other things. That gave him the confidence to take chances with reading. One day he found himself reading a book all by himself!

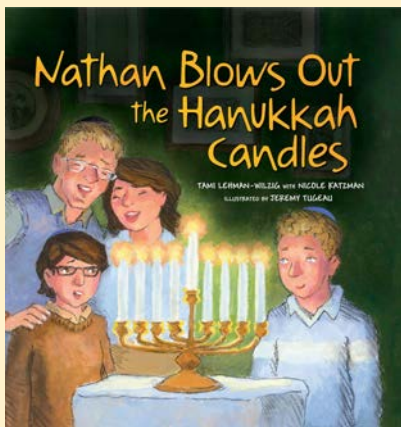


### [Miss Little's Gift](#)

*Douglas Wood, Jim Burke (I) | Age 5-9 | ADHD*

"This tribute to the author's second-grade teacher will resonate with those who struggle with reading." — Publishers Weekly

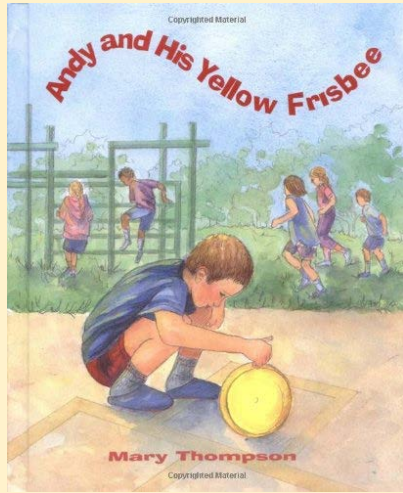
Douglas is the youngest, smallest, and newest student in his second-grade class, and he doesn't like reading. He doesn't like sitting still. And he doesn't like Miss Little, especially when she makes him stay after class, forcing him to sound out lines and blobs and squiggles when he'd rather be throwing a football. Luckily Douglas likes the pictures in the book Miss Little has chosen for him, pictures that remind him of the lake his family visits every summer. Author Douglas Wood — the boy in the story — alludes to scenes from *The Little Island*, the first book that enticed him to read, in a tale that will appeal to many children with ADHD.



### [Nathan Blows Out the Hanukkah Candles](#)

*Tami Lehman-Wilzig, Nicole Katzman, Jeremy Tugeau (I) | Age 5-9 | Autism spectrum disorder*

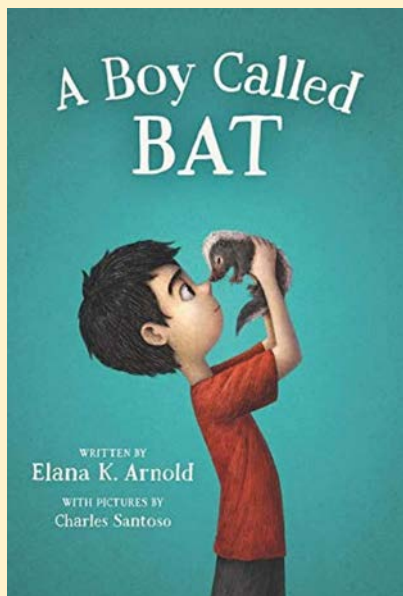
Jacob loves his autistic brother, Nathan, but when Hanukkah comes, Jacob worries that Nathan might embarrass him in front of his new friend. What if Nathan blows out the Hanukkah candles?!



### [Andy and His Yellow Frisbee](#)

*Mary Thompson | Age 5+ | Autism spectrum disorder*

The new girl at school tries to befriend Andy, an autistic boy who spends every recess by himself, spinning a yellow frisbee under the watchful eye of his older sister



### [A Boy Called Bat \(Bat #1\)](#)

*Elena K. Arnold, Charles Santoso (I) | Age 6-10 | Autism spectrum disorder*

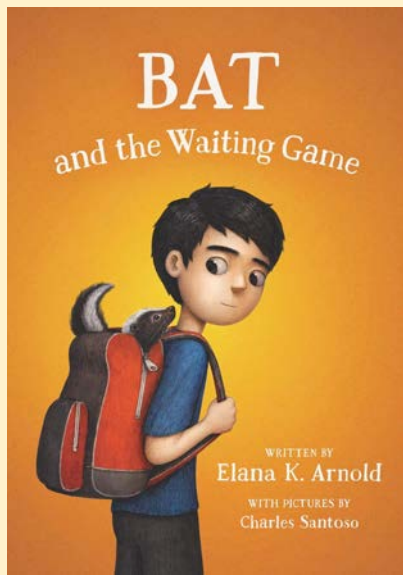
The first book in a funny, heartfelt, and irresistible young middle grade series starring an unforgettable young boy on the autism spectrum.

For Bixby Alexander Tam (nicknamed Bat), life tends to be full of surprises—some of them good, some not so good. Today, though, is a good-surprise day. Bat's mom, a veterinarian, has brought home a baby skunk, which she needs to take care of until she can hand him over to a wild-animal shelter.

But the minute Bat meets the kit, he knows they belong together. And he's got one month to show his mom that a baby skunk might just make a pretty terrific pet.

"This sweet and thoughtful novel chronicles Bat's experiences and challenges at school with friends and teachers and at home with his sister and divorced parents. Approachable for younger or reluctant readers while still delivering a powerful and thoughtful story" (from the review by Brightly, which named A Boy Called Bat a best book of the year).

Elana K. Arnold's Bat trilogy is a proven winner in the home and classroom—kids love these short illustrated young middle grade books. The trilogy is A Boy Called Bat, Bat and the Waiting Game, and Bat and the End of Everything.



### **Bat and the Waiting Game (Bat #2)**

*Elana K. Arnold, Charles Santoso (I) | Age 6-10 | Autism spectrum disorder*

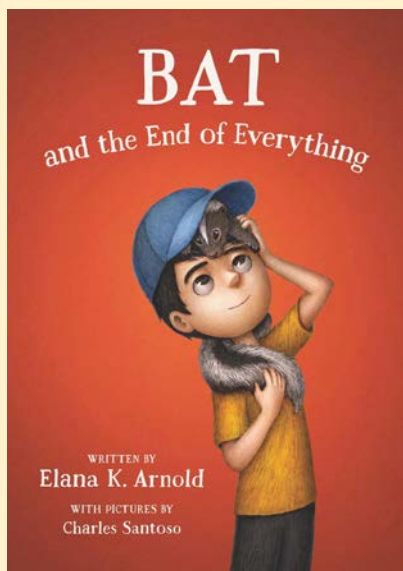
In the tradition of Clementine and Ramona Quimby, meet Bat. Author Elana K. Arnold returns with another irresistible story of friendship in this widely acclaimed series starring an unforgettable boy on the autism spectrum.

For Bixby Alexander Tam (nicknamed Bat), life is pretty great. He's the caretaker of the best baby skunk in the world—even Janie, his older sister, is warming up to Thor.

When Janie gets a part in the school play and can't watch Bat after school, it means some pretty big changes. Someone else has to take care of the skunk kit in the afternoons, Janie is having sleepovers with her new friends, and Bat wants everything to go back to normal.

He just has to make it to the night of Janie's performance. . . .

Elana K. Arnold's Bat trilogy is a proven winner in the home and classroom—kids love these short illustrated young middle grade books. The trilogy is A Boy Called Bat, Bat and the Waiting Game, and Bat and the End of Everything.



### **Bat and the End of Everything (Bat #3)**

*Elana K. Arnold, Charles Santoso (I) | Age 6-10 | Autism spectrum disorder*

The third book in the funny and joyful series Katherine Applegate has called “tender and important,” by National Book Award finalist Elana K. Arnold.

Bixby Alexander Tam (nicknamed Bat) has been the caretaker for Thor, the best skunk kit in the world...but the last day of third grade is quickly approaching, and Thor is almost ready to be released into the wild.

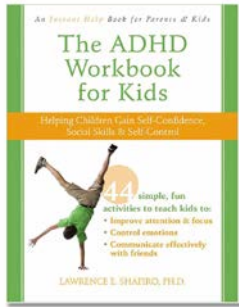
The end of school also means that Bat has to say good-bye to his favorite teacher, and he worries about the summer care of Babycakes, their adorable class pet. Not only that, but his best friend is leaving for a long vacation in Canada.

Summer promises good things, too, like working with his mom at the vet clinic and hanging out with his sister, Janie. But Bat can't help but feel that everything is coming to an end.

National Book Award finalist Elana K. Arnold returns with the third story starring an unforgettable boy on the autism spectrum.

Elana K. Arnold's Bat trilogy is a proven winner in the home and classroom—kids love these short illustrated young middle grade books. The trilogy is A Boy Called Bat, Bat and the Waiting Game, and Bat and the End of Everything.





**Therapist Recommended**

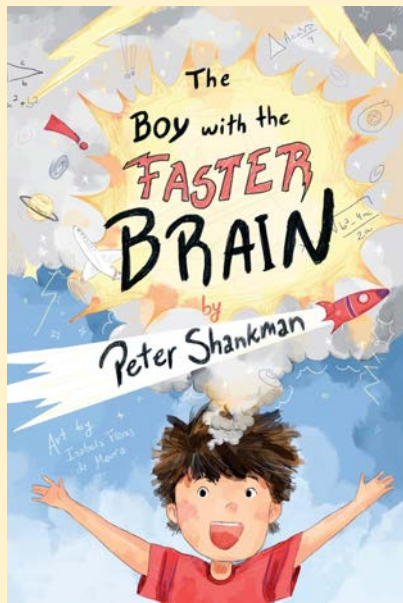
### [The ADHD Workbook for Kids: Helping Children Gain Self-Confidence, Social Skills, & Self-Control](#)

*Lawrence E. Shapiro | Age 6-12 | ADHD*

All kids with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) want to manage their symptoms in order to get along better with others, build confidence, and succeed in school, but most don't have the skills they need to get their impulsive behavior under control. The ADHD Workbook for Kids offers a simple way to help children with ADHD learn these critical skills in just ten minutes a day.

This workbook includes more than forty activities for kids developed by child psychologist Lawrence Shapiro that can help your child with ADHD handle everyday tasks, make friends, and build self-esteem while he or she learns to overcome the most challenging aspects of the disorder. Alone or with your help, your child can complete one ten-minute activity each day to learn how to make good decisions and discover easy techniques for staying focused when it's time to pay attention.

Includes activities to help your child: -Become a good listener and a good friend  
-Make school easier and more fun  
-Recognize his or her special gifts and build self-esteem  
-Practice planning ahead and learn responsibility

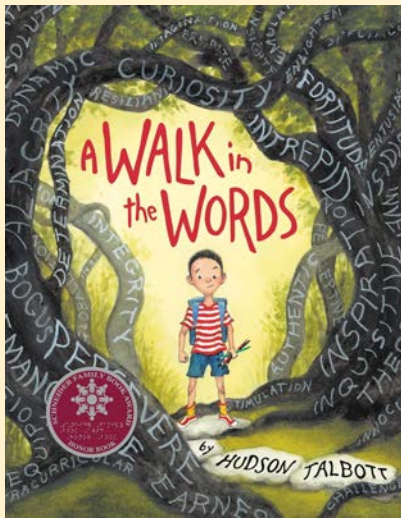


### [The Boy with the Faster Brain](#)

*Peter Shankman, Isabela Flores de Moura (I) | Age 6-12 | ADHD*

Your child isn't broken! Transform your child's ADHD into a superpower that will turbocharge how they learn, think, and grow!

Peter Shankman realized a long time ago that his ADHD was responsible for most, if not all of his success. After starting and selling three companies and writing five best-selling books (including *Faster Than Normal*, which in five years has become the bible of ADHD and productivity), Peter decided it was time to write a book that focused on children—one that would teach them that ADHD, and all forms of neurodiversity, can be gifts, and not a curse—as long as they understand how to use them. That's what this book is about. Come meet Peter, his mom and dad, and Dr. Lisa, and understand why having a faster brain is the best thing that a child could ask for.



## [A Walk in the Words](#)

*Hudson Talbott | Age 6-8 | Learning difference*

Winner of a Schneider Family Honor!

“A beautifully rendered and deeply inspiring book for everyone who has ever read slowly—myself included! Hudson shows us the beauty and magic that can come from taking our time. Brilliant.”—Jacqueline Woodson

Hudson Talbott's inspiring story vividly reveals the challenges--and ultimately the rewards--of being a non-mainstream kind of learner.

When Hudson Talbott was a little boy, he loved drawing, and it came naturally to him. But reading? No way! One at a time, words weren't a problem, but long sentences were a struggle. As his friends moved on to thicker books, he kept his slow reading a secret. But that got harder every year. He felt alone, lost, and afraid in a world of too many words.

Fortunately, his love of stories wouldn't let him give up. He started giving himself permission to read at his own pace, using the words he knew as stepping-stones to help draw him into a story. And he found he wasn't so alone--in fact, lots of brilliant people were slow readers, too. Learning to accept the fact that everyone does things in their own unique way, and that was okay, freed him up and ultimately helped Hudson thrive and become the fabulous storyteller he is today.

## [Lily and the Mixed-Up Letters](#)



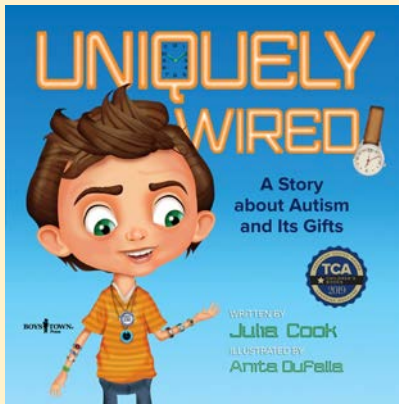
## [Lily and the Mixed-Up Letters](#)

*Deborah Hodge, France Brassard (I) | Age 6-9 | Dyslexia*

When Lily was in kindergarten she enjoyed school and she was happy. Now, she's in grade 2 and she doesn't feel like she's good at anything. The trouble is reading. Whenever she tries, the letters jump around and get all mixed up — and so does she.

When Lily's teacher announces that the children will read in front of their parents, Lily finally finds the courage to tell her mother about her problem. By working together, Lily's mom, teacher, and friend Grace find a way to help Lily understand that she has very important strengths and talents. With hard work and new confidence, Lily surprises everyone — even herself — by the time the parents come to hear the kids read.

Gentle illustrations by France Brassard realistically portray the fear, isolation, and low self-esteem that children with dyslexia can experience. Deborah Hodge's Lily and the Mixed-up Letters is a reassuring read for any child in need of a boost in confidence.



## [Uniquely Wired: A Story About Autism and Its Gifts](#)

*Julia Cook, Anita DuFalla (I) | Age 6-9 | Autism spectrum disorder*

Winner of Learning Magazine 2019 Teachers' Choice Award for Children's Books!

Winner of 2023 Autism Live Best Book Award!

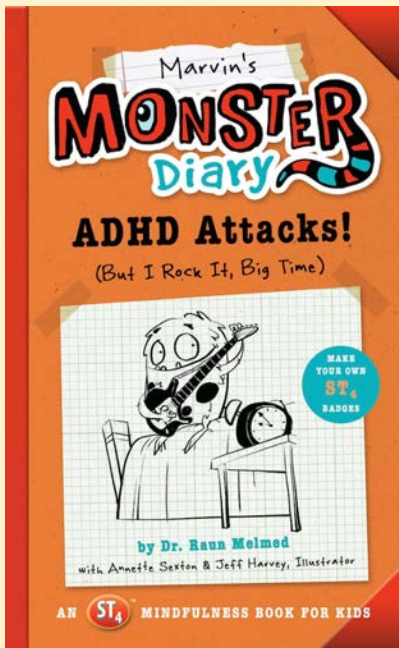
Some people say I have a disability. I don't see it that way at all. I am Uniquely Wired.

This is the heartwarming and illuminating story of Zak, a young boy living with autism who wants you to understand how he experiences the sights and sounds of the world around him.

Zak knows he's not quite like his siblings and classmates. Bright lights and big crowds are overwhelming to him. Hugs make him uncomfortable, too. His atypical behaviors, from flapping his arms to spinning his body, seem out of place. But for Zak, that's just how he copes.

Though his actions may seem peculiar to some, Zak's desires and disappointments are as ordinary as any child's. He loves watches; he hates being excluded. As Zak embraces life the only way he knows how, he teaches those around him important lessons about fairness, patience, curiosity and independence.

From the pen of award-winning author Julia Cook, Uniquely Wired is written for K through 6 students and all those who live, work, play or go to school with children on the autism spectrum or those who have other special needs. Tips for understanding children who are Uniquely Wired are included in the storybook.



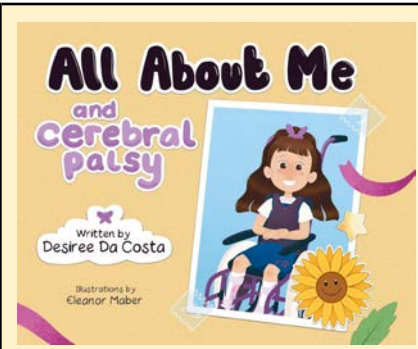
## [Marvin's Monster Diary: ADHD Attacks!](#)

*Raun Melmed, Annette Sexton, Jeff Harvey | Age 7-10 | ADHD*

Meet Marvin, a lovable monster with a twelve-stringed baby fang guitar, a rambunctious case of ADHD, and a diary to record it all. His teachers scold him, his parents don't know what to do with him, and his sister is convinced he was raised by triple-tailed monkeys. In short, Marvin's life is feeling out of control—until a secret formula changes everything.

In the same humorous spirit of Diary of a Wimpy Kid comes Marvin's Monster Diary: ADHD Attacks! (And I Rock It, Big Time). Using the "monstercam" and "ST4" techniques developed by Dr. Raun Melmed of the Melmed Center in Arizona, Marvin's Monster Diary teaches kids how to be mindful, observe their surroundings, and take time to think about their actions. Marvin's hilarious doodles and diary entries chronicle his delightful adventures, misadventures, and eventual triumph in a funny, relatable way. It's the one book on ADHD that kids will actually want to read!

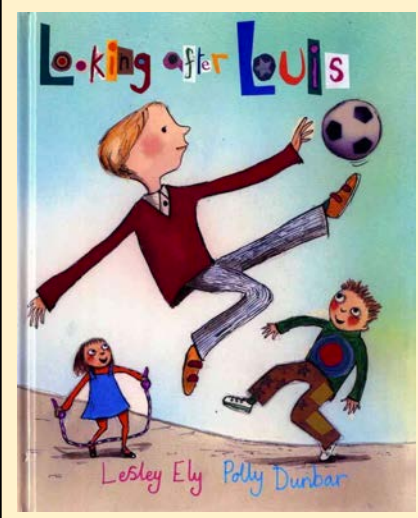
Marvin's Monster Diary also includes a resource section to help parents and teachers implement Dr. Melmed's methods, plus ST4 reminders that kids can remove, color, and place around the house.



**All About Me and Cerebral Palsy**

*Desiree Da Costa, Eleanor Maber (I) | Age 7-11 | Cerebral palsy*

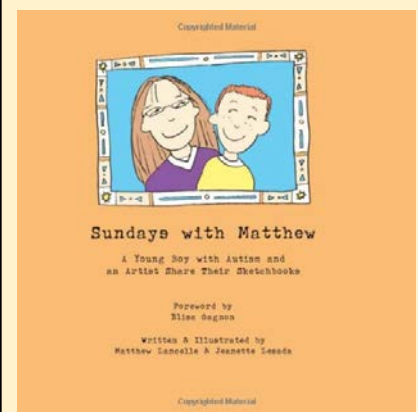
Gabriela is going into Grade 2 and everything will be brand new at her school. She is excited to learn, play, and also has a lesson plan for the day. Let's listen closely as we hear Gabriela say, "Are you ready to learn all about me and cerebral palsy today?"



**Looking After Louis**

*Lesley Ely, Polly Dunbar (I) | Age 7-11 | Cerebral palsy*

Gabriela is going into Grade 2 and everything will be brand new at her school. She is excited to learn, play, and also has a lesson plan for the day. Let's listen closely as we hear Gabriela say, "Are you ready to learn all about me and cerebral palsy today?"



**Sundays with Matthew: A Young Boy With Autism and an Artist Share Their Sketchbooks**

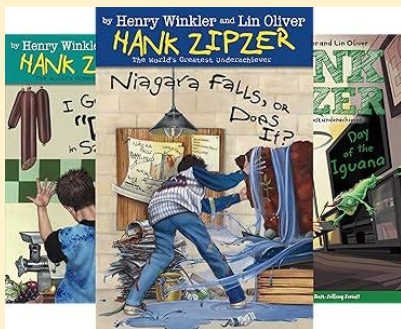
*Matthew Lancelli, Jeanette Lesada | Age 7-9 | Autism spectrum disorder*

"Sundays with Matthew: A Young Boy with Autism and an Artist Share Their Sketchbooks" by Matthew Lancelli and Jeanette Lesada is a positive and encouraging example of a special relationship between two artists sharing a passion for art and life. Since many children and youth with autism have well-defined special interests, it is valuable to determine what those interests are and find ways to use them to reinforce appropriate behavior. "Sundays with Matthew" demonstrates that using a special interest and talent is a proven way to help a child reach his full potential. Jeanette's sketchbook tips at the end of the book will inspire others to engage in similar ventures. Jeanette met Matthew through the Wisconsin Early Autism Program (WEAP) in Milwaukee. WEAP underwent funding cuts and Jeanette was laid off the payroll; however, she decided to stay on with Matthew once a week—on Sundays. Now free from guidelines, Jeanette started her own program with Matthew. They began to sketch in order to "talk" about topics, including emotions, behavior, likes and dislikes. She utilized Matthew's favorite things, such as monsters and sea creatures, to capture his attention and interest. According to Jeanette: "Matthew went from being a child who hardly sat still for more than two minutes, to a child who can now sit still for long periods of time drawing. Pictures of stick figures with eyeballs taught Matthew to look at people's eyes, and now he stares me down. Instead of



reciting things to me he has memorized, Matthew asks me questions about things that are on his mind. Matthew reads full pages aloud from Harry Potter, and he feels like he can ask me deep questions and get straight answers. I have watched Matthew blossom into an incredibly chatty, inquisitive twelve-year-old, and our time together always flies by with hardly a behavioral incident. Matthew still has his difficult days, and there are still things we are working on, but "Sundays with Matthew" is something he is proud of, something that not even the 'regular kids' get done every day." Sundays with Matthew includes illustrations from both Matthew and Jeanette. Their shared interest in drawing has led to a friendship that will inspire others to look for commonalities instead of differences in people. The relationship between Jeanette and Matthew portrayed in this unique book is sure to warm hearts.

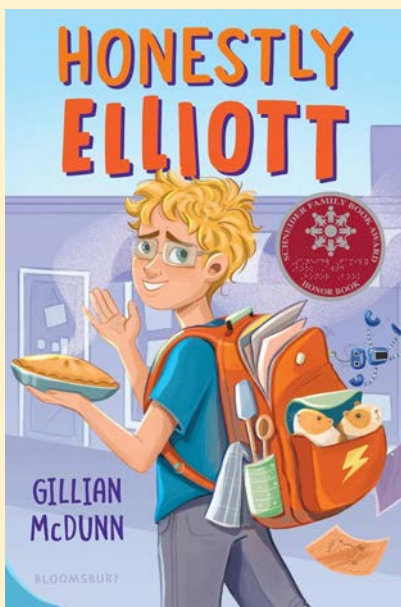
## Middle grades



### Hank Zipper Series (17 Books)

*Lin Oliver, Henry Winkler, Jesse Joshua Watson (I) | Age 8-10 | Dyslexia*

For Hank, fourth grade does not start out on the right foot. First of all, he gets called to the principal's office on the very first day of school. Then the first assignment his teacher gives him is to write five paragraphs on "What You Did This Summer." Hank is terrified-writing one good sentence is hard for him, so how in the world is he going to write five whole paragraphs? Hank comes up with a plan: instead of writing what he did on vacation, he'll show what he did. But when Hank's "living essay" becomes a living disaster, he finds himself in detention. Strangely enough, however, detention ends up becoming a turning point in his life.



### Honestly Elliott

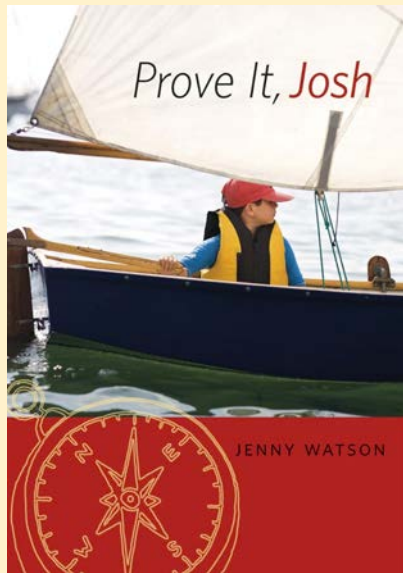
*Gillian McDunn | Age 8-11 | ADHD*

Schneider Family Book Award: Best Middle Grade Honor Book!

Highly-acclaimed author of Caterpillar Summer, Gillian McDunn explores boyhood in a funny, big-hearted story about a kid trying to find the best way to be his best self.

Elliott isn't sure where he fits in. Ever since his best friend moved away and his dad and stepmom announced the arrival of their new baby, he's been feeling invisible. Plus his dad just doesn't seem to understand what having ADHD really feels like, or why cooking is the one activity where Elliott's mind clicks into place.

When he's paired with the super smart and popular Maribel for a school project, Elliott worries she'll be just another person who underestimates him. But Maribel is also looking for a new way to show others her true self and this project could be the chance they've both been waiting for. Sometimes the least likely friends help you see a new side to things . . . and sometimes you have to make a few mistakes before you figure out what's right.



## [Prove It, Josh](#)

*Jenny Watson | Age 8-11 | Dyslexia*

Josh put his finger on the word and tried to sound it out.

“D-d-d-d ...”

By the time he got to the bottom of the page, a headache had started to pound behind his left ear. He snapped the book shut and shoved it across the table.

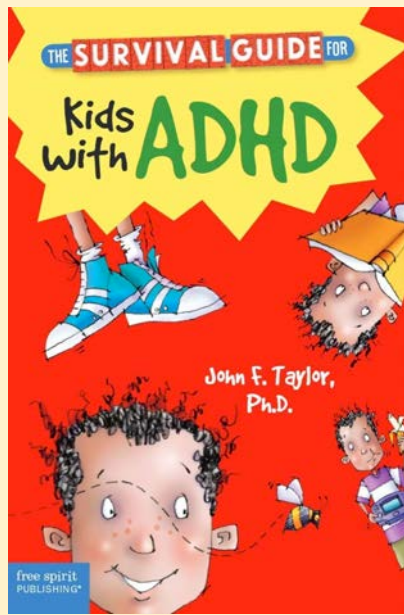
“I hate reading.”

Eleven-year-old Josh’s summer is getting off to a bad start. It’s the first week of vacation, but instead of being out on the water in his nifty sailing dinghy, he’s stuck in the library with the latest in a long string of tutors. Josh is dyslexic—and since he moved out west to live with Dad, a whole new crop of kids have been teasing him about his problems writing and reading.

At least Josh loves living at the marina on Dad’s cruising yacht. He’s counting the days until his brother, Matt, still back in Toronto with their mom, comes out to join Josh and his dad for a sailing trip.

When a mean classmate, Brittany, bets Josh he can’t beat her in an upcoming boat race, Josh isn’t too worried. With Matt as his racing partner, he’ll stand a good chance. But when the news comes that Matt has to enroll in summer school instead, Josh’s anxiety goes into overdrive. If he loses the race to Brittany, he’ll have to volunteer as a reader at the library—his worst nightmare! It’s time for Josh to prove what he’s made of, and readers will cheer him on as help comes from unexpected quarters.

Combining sailing lore, page-turning adventure and gentle humour, first-time novelist Jenny Watson has crafted an engaging, encouraging tale. Josh’s story comes full of inspiration, not just for the learning disabled, but for anyone who has to overcome adversity.



## [The Survival Guide for Kids with ADHD](#)

*John F. Taylor | Age 8-11 | ADHD*

What are ADHD? What does it mean to have ADHD? How can kids diagnosed with ADHD help themselves succeed in school, get along better at home, and form healthy, enjoyable relationships with peers? In kid-friendly language and a format that welcomes reluctant and easily distracted readers, this book helps kids know they're not alone and offers practical strategies for taking care of oneself, modifying behavior, enjoying school, having fun, and dealing with doctors, counselors, and medication. Includes real-life scenarios, quizzes, and a special message for parents.

Survival Guides for Kids

Helping Kids Help Themselves®

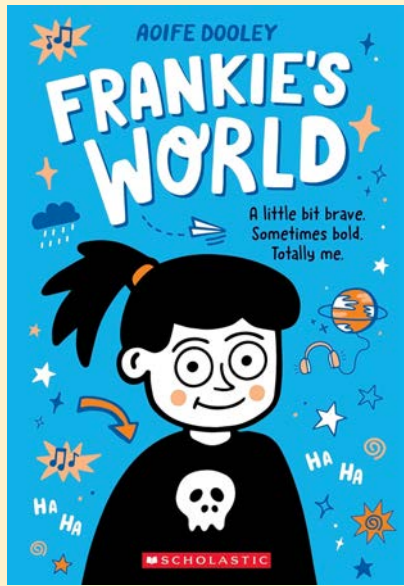
Straightforward, friendly, and loaded with practical advice, the Free Spirit Survival Guides for Kids give kids the tools they need to not only survive, but thrive. With plenty of realistic examples and bright illustrations, they are accessible, encouraging, kid-friendly, and even life-changing.



## [Window Boy](#)

*Andrea White | Age 8-12 | Cerebral palsy*

Set in 1968, this touching novel tells the story of Sam Davis, a young man with cerebral palsy who peers through his bedroom window every day at the school he longs to attend. With great determination and the help of both his caretaker and his imaginary friend, Winston Churchill, Sam not only succeeds in gaining admittance to the school and the acceptance of his peers, but also fulfills his dream of becoming the school's basketball coach. The narrative, full of poignant insights into attitudes toward people with disabilities, provides a glimpse into the life of Winston Churchill, who is a key inspiration for young Sam.



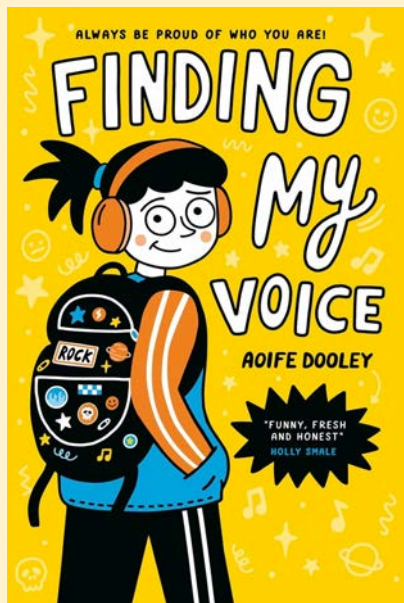
## Frankie's World

*Aoife Dooley | Age 8-12 | Autism spectrum disorder*

From acclaimed Autistic Irish comedian Aoife Dooley comes a fresh and funny debut middle-grade graphic novel about fitting in and standing out.

Frankie is different from everyone in her class, and she can't figure out why. She has trouble concentrating, and her classmates tease her for not having a dad at home. To try to make sense of the world, Frankie doodles her daily adventures in a journal. One day, when Frankie sneaks into her mom's room and sees her biological father's name on her birth certificate, she decides to go on a mission to track him down. Could Frankie's father be the key to finding out why Frankie feels so adrift?

A unique story told with a light touch and an abundance of warmth and wit, Frankie's World is laugh-out-loud funny and a love letter to daring to be different.



## Finding My Voice (Frankie's World #2)

*Aoife Dooley | Age 8-12 | Autism spectrum disorder*

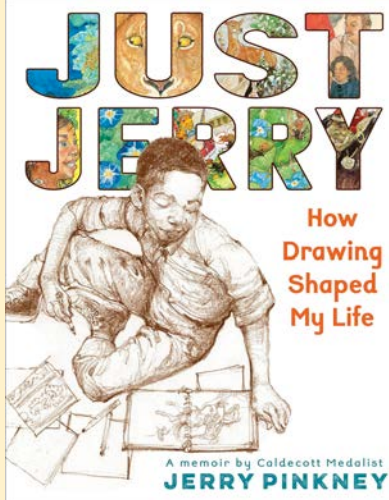
How do you find your voice when everyone around you is telling you to be quiet?

Frankie is different, and so is her best-friend, Sam. So when they both start secondary school, it's tough. Particularly when there are so many rules to follow, like: No talking in class! Be quiet in the hallways! Silence for assembly!

Frankie doesn't know how she'll manage, because constantly talking is how she copes. So when she gets the chance to compete in a Battle of the Bands contest, Frankie couldn't be more excited. Except, to have a band, you need to have band members. And to have band members, you need to be good at making friends...

Can Frankie learn to find her voice and stand out?





## [Just Jerry: How Drawing Shaped My Life](#)

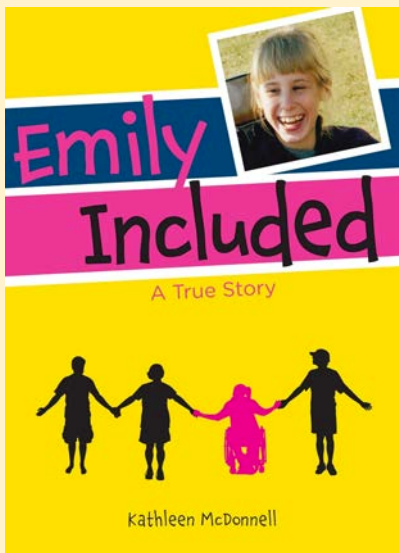
*Jerry Pinkney | Age 8-12 | Learning disability*

An inspiring memoir of a Caldecott-winning artist and one of the most acclaimed children's book illustrators of all time, sharing the story of a young artist who finds the courage to follow his passion against all odds.

\* "A moving work from a legend of children's literature and a testament to his legacy of visual storytelling." —Kirkus Reviews, starred review

Jerry Pinkney—creator of Caldecott Medal-winning *The Lion & the Mouse* and *The Little Mermaid*—drew everywhere, all the time. Since childhood, it was how he made sense of the world—how he coped with the stress of being a sensitive child growing up in crowded spaces, struggling with a learning disability, in a time when the segregation of Black Americans was the norm. Only drawing could offer him a sense of calm, control, and confidence. When friends and siblings teased him about having the nickname “Jerry” as his only name, his mother always said, “Just ‘Jerry’ is enough. He’ll make something of that name someday.” And so he did, eventually becoming one of the most celebrated children’s book illustrators of all time and paving the way for countless other Black artists.

Jerry’s vivid recollections and lively sketchbook drawings of his youth in postwar America tell an inspiring story of how a hardworking boy pursued his passion in less-than-ideal circumstances and became a legendary artist against all odds.



## [Emily Included](#)

*Kathleen McDonnell | Age 8-12 | Cerebral palsy*

The true story of Emily Eaton. Born with severe cerebral palsy, Emily and her family had to fight for her right to go to school with non-disabled children in a regular classroom. Unwilling to take no for an answer, her fight would take her all the way to the Supreme Court. Eventually victorious, Emily’s story makes her an amazing role model for children everywhere - whether they are living with a disability or not.



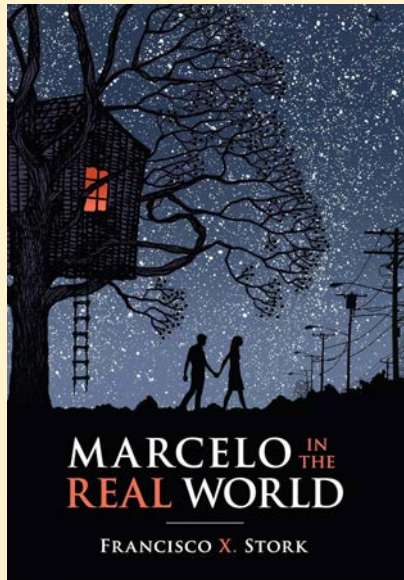
### [The Many Mysteries of the Finkel Family](#)

*Sarah Kapit | Age 8-12 | Autism spectrum disorder*

Fans of the Penderwicks and the Vanderbeekers, meet the Finkel family in this middle grade novel about two autistic sisters, their detective agency, and life's most consequential mysteries.

When twelve-year-old Lara Finkel starts her very own detective agency, FIASCCO (Finkel Investigation Agency Solving Consequential Crimes Only), she does not want her sister, Caroline, involved. She and Caroline don't have to do everything together. But Caroline won't give up, and when she brings Lara the firm's first mystery, Lara relents, and the questions start piling up.

But Lara and Caroline's truce doesn't last for long. Caroline normally uses her tablet to talk, but now she's busily texting a new friend. Lara can't figure out what the two of them are up to, but it can't be good. And Caroline doesn't like Lara's snooping—she's supposed to be solving other people's crimes, not spying on Caroline! As FIASCCO and the Finkel family mysteries spin out of control, can Caroline and Lara find a way to be friends again?

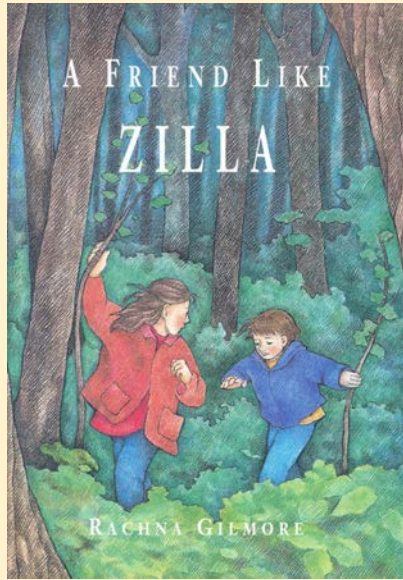


### [Marcelo In the Real World](#)

*Francisco X. Stork | Age 8-13 | Cognitive disorder*

Imagine Curious Incident of the Dog . . . with a romance, and you have the beginnings of this story of a young man struggling with the world outside his head--and the woman who gets inside it.

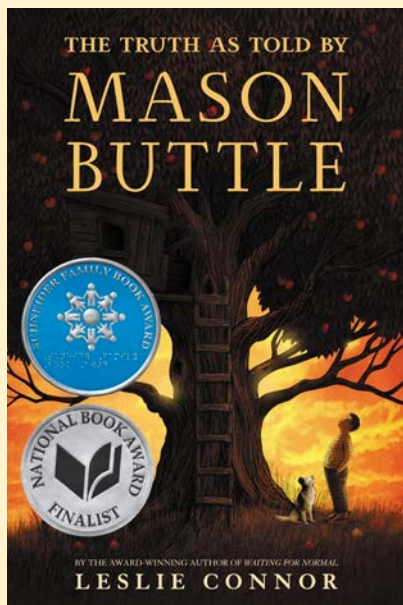
The term "cognitive disorder" implies there is something wrong with the way I think or the way I perceive reality. I perceive reality just fine. Sometimes I perceive more of reality than others. Marcelo Sandoval hears music that nobody else can hear - part of an autism-like condition that no doctor has been able to identify. But his father has never fully believed in the music or Marcelo's differences, and he challenges Marcelo to work in the mailroom of his law firm for the summer . . . to join "the real world." There Marcelo meets Jasmine, his beautiful and surprising coworker, and Wendell, the son of another partner in the firm. He learns about competition and jealousy, anger and desire. But it's a picture he finds in a file - a picture of a girl with half a face - that truly connects him with the real world: its suffering, its injustice, and what he can do to fight.



### [A Friend Like Zilla](#)

*Rachna Gilmore | Age 8-13 | Developmental delay*

Nobby meets Zilla, who is developmentally disabled, while on holiday. But Uncle Chad is prejudiced towards Zilla. Attitudes change when Uncle Chad gets hurt and Zilla comes to the rescue.



### [The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle](#)

*Leslie Connor | Age 9-11 | Learning disability*

From the critically acclaimed author of *Waiting for Normal* and *All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook*, Leslie Connor, comes a deeply poignant and beautifully crafted story about self-reliance, redemption, and hope.

Mason Buttle is the biggest, sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. Mason's learning disabilities are compounded by grief. Fifteen months ago, Mason's best friend, Benny Kilmartin, turned up dead in the Buttle family's orchard.

An investigation drags on, and Mason, honest as the day is long, can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe the story Mason has told about that day.

Both Mason and his new friend, tiny Calvin Chumsky, are relentlessly bullied by the other boys in their neighborhood, so they create an underground haven for themselves. When Calvin goes missing, Mason finds himself in trouble again. He's desperate to figure out what happened to Calvin and, eventually, Benny.

But will anyone believe him?





## [Fish in a Tree](#)

*Lynda Mullaly Hunt | Age 9-11 | Dyslexia*

"Fans of R.J. Palacio's *Wonder* will appreciate this feel-good story of friendship and unconventional smarts." —Kirkus Reviews

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. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.

The author of the beloved *One for the Murphys* gives readers an emotionally-charged, uplifting novel that will speak to anyone who's ever thought there was something wrong with them because they didn't fit in. This paperback edition includes *The Sketchbook of Impossible Things* and discussion questions.



## [Rain Reign](#)

*Ann M. Martin | Age 9-12 | Autism spectrum disorder*

From Newbery Honor author Ann M. Martin, who wrote the *Baby-sitters Club* series, comes a New York Times-bestselling middle grade novel about a girl, her dog, and the trials of growing up in a complicated and often scary world.

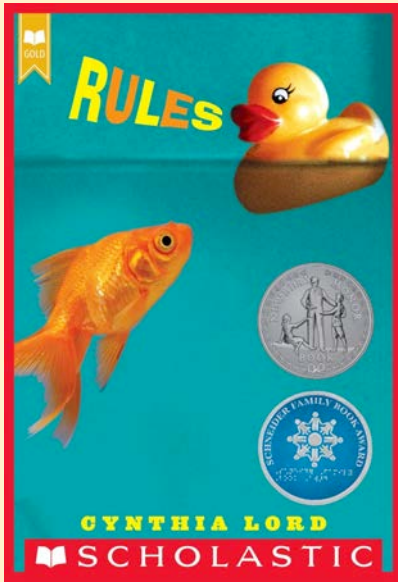
Rose Howard is obsessed with homonyms. She's thrilled that her own name is a homonym, and she purposely gave her dog Rain a name with two homonyms (Reign, Rein), which, according to Rose's rules of homonyms, is very special. Not everyone understands Rose's obsessions, her rules, and the other things that make her different—not her teachers, not other kids, and not her single father.

When a storm hits their rural town, rivers overflow, the roads are flooded, and Rain goes missing. Rose's father shouldn't have let Rain out. Now Rose has to find her dog, even if it means leaving her routines and safe places to search.

"A story about honorable living in the autistic narrator genre that sets the bar high. . . . Martin has penned a riveting, seamless narrative in which each word sings and each scene counts." —Kirkus Reviews, starred review

This title has Common Core connections.



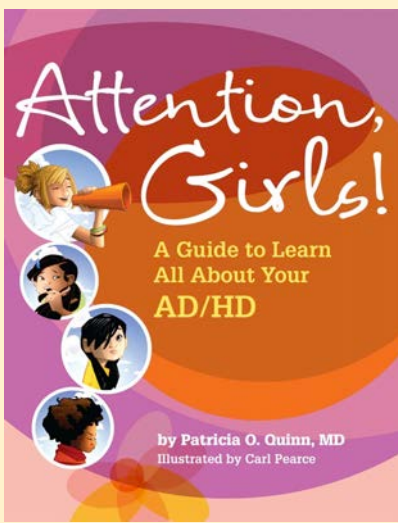


## Rules

*Cynthia Lord | Age 9-12 | Autism spectrum disorder*

This Newbery Honor Book is a heartfelt and witty story about feeling different and finding acceptance--beyond the rules.

Rules joins the Scholastic Gold line, which features award-winning and beloved novels. Includes exclusive bonus content! Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public" -- in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors. But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?



## Attention, Girls!: A Guide to Learn All About Your AD/HD

*Patricia O. Quinn | Age 9-12 | ADHD*

Geared exclusively towards girls, Attention, Girls is packed with useful tools for staying in control of schoolwork and relationships. Practical ways to improve organization, focus, and study and homework skills are included as well as information on making and keeping friends, dealing with emotions, self-esteem, sleep problems, medication, and managing anxiety.

With Attention, Girls you'll meet other girls with AD/HD just like you and you'll learn lots of ways to take charge of your life. This book has tons of strategies and tips for you to:

Learn all about AD/HD

Get organized

Pay attention

Make and keep friends

Deal with your emotions

Understand medication

And so much more

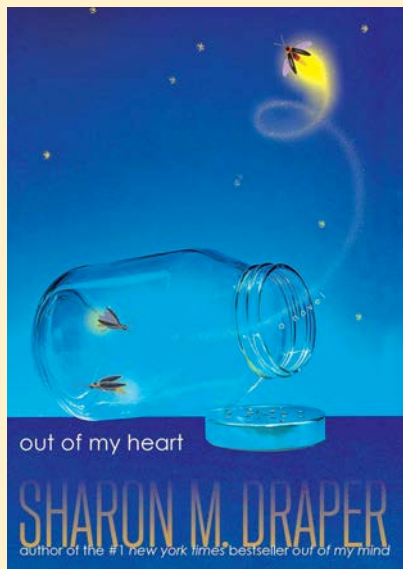
So get reading and soon you'll get back to the business of being you



### [Out of My Mind \(Out of My Mind #1\)](#)

*Sharon M. Draper | Age 9-12 | Cerebral palsy*

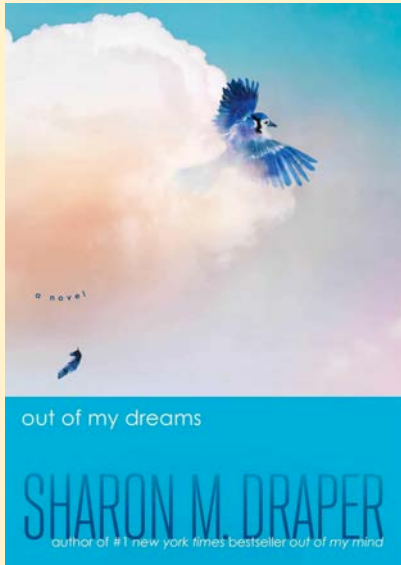
Eleven-year-old Melody is not like most people. She can't walk. She can't talk. She can't write. All because she has cerebral palsy. But she also has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She's the smartest kid in her whole school, but NO ONE knows it. Most people—her teachers, her doctors, her classmates—dismiss her as mentally challenged because she can't tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by her disability. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow.



### [Out of My Heart \(Out of My Mind #2\)](#)

*Sharon M. Draper | Age 9-12 | Cerebral palsy*

Eleven-year-old Melody is not like most people. She can't walk. She can't talk. She can't write. All because she has cerebral palsy. But she also has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She's the smartest kid in her whole school, but NO ONE knows it. Most people—her teachers, her doctors, her classmates—dismiss her as mentally challenged because she can't tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by her disability. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow.

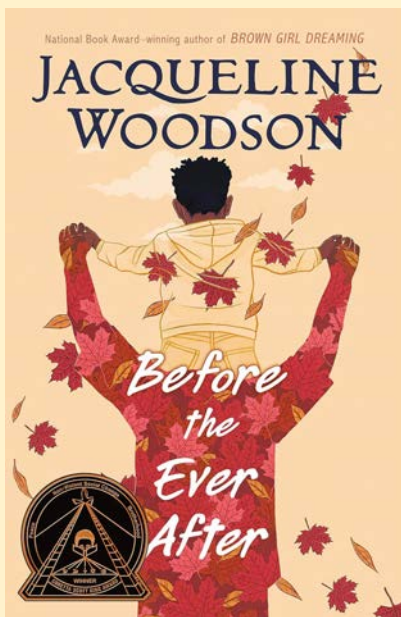


### [Out of My Dreams \(Out of My Mind #3\)](#)

*Sharon M. Draper | Age 9-12 | Cerebral palsy*

When Melody saves an elderly back-in-the-day actress's life, the woman is so grateful—and impressed by Melody—that she nominates Melody to be a US spokesperson at an international symposium for kids with different abilities. To Melody's utter shock and delight, she and two friends of her choice are chosen to participate—and this year's symposium is in England!

Melody finally gets to fly on an airplane, and even the airline's somewhat clumsy handling of her wheelchair can't dampen her excitement to be in London. There, Melody meets kids from all over the world who are rallying for greater accessibility and more thoughtful planning on how to make the world more equal for every kid, no matter the unusual challenges they face. As Melody's time to speak approaches, she hopes she can find a way to make every word count and make an impact.



### [Before the Ever After](#)

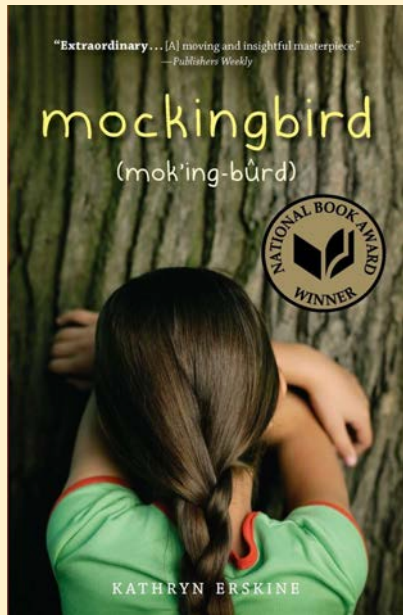
*Jacqueline Woodson | Age 10-12 | Traumatic brain injury*

WINNER OF THE NAACP IMAGE AWARD

WINNER OF THE CORETTA SCOTT KING AUTHOR AWARD

National Book Award winner Jacqueline Woodson's stirring novel-in-verse explores how a family moves forward when their glory days have passed and the cost of professional sports on Black bodies.

For as long as ZJ can remember, his dad has been everyone's hero. As a charming, talented pro football star, he's as beloved to the neighborhood kids he plays with as he is to his millions of adoring sports fans. But lately life at ZJ's house is anything but charming. His dad is having trouble remembering things and seems to be angry all the time. ZJ's mom explains it's because of all the head injuries his dad sustained during his career. ZJ can understand that—but it doesn't make the sting any less real when his own father forgets his name. As ZJ contemplates his new reality, he has to figure out how to hold on tight to family traditions and recollections of the glory days, all the while wondering what their past amounts to if his father can't remember it. And most importantly, can those happy feelings ever be reclaimed when they are all so busy aching for the past?

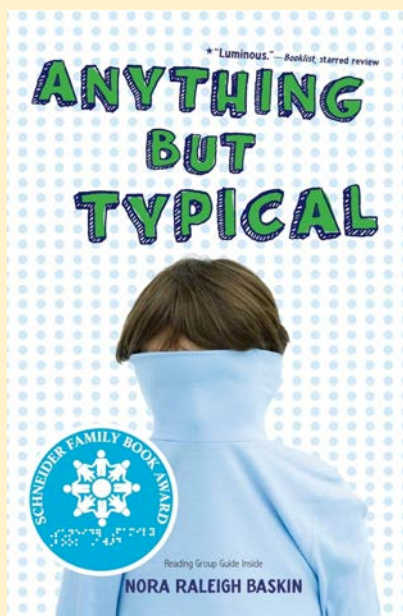


## Mockingbird

*Kathryn Erskine | Age 10-12 | Autism spectrum disorder*

THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER and ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT NOVELS OF OUR TIME FOR YOUNG READERS

Caitlin has Asperger's. The world according to her is black and white; anything in between is confusing. Before, when things got confusing, Caitlin went to her older brother, Devon, for help. But Devon was killed in a school shooting, and Caitlin's dad is so distraught that he is just not helpful. Caitlin wants everything to go back to the way things were, but she doesn't know how to do that. Then she comes across the word closure--and she realizes this is what she needs. And in her search for it, Caitlin discovers that the world may not be so black and white after all.



## Anything But Typical

*Nora Raleigh Baskin | Age 10-12 | Autism spectrum disorder*

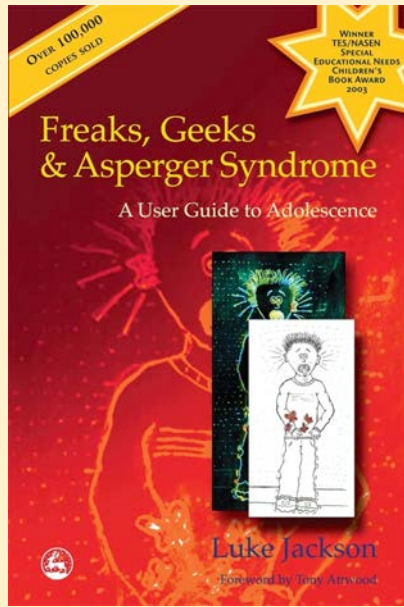
Told from the first-person perspective of an autistic boy, Nora Raleigh Baskin's novel is an enlightening story for anyone who has ever worried about fitting in.

Jason Blake is an autistic twelve-year-old living in a neurotypical world. Most days it's just a matter of time before something goes wrong. But Jason finds a glimmer of understanding when he comes across PhoenixBird, who posts stories to the same online site as he does.

Jason can be himself when he writes and he thinks that PhoenixBird-her name is Rebecca-could be his first real friend. But as desperate as Jason is to meet her, he's terrified that if they do meet, Rebecca will only see his autism and not who Jason really is.

By acclaimed writer Nora Raleigh Baskin, this is the breathtaking depiction of an autistic boy's struggles-and a story for anyone who has ever worried about fitting in.





## [Freaks, Geeks, and Asperger Syndrome: A User Guide to Adolescence](#)

*Luke Jackson | Age 10-13 | Autism spectrum disorder*

Have you ever been called a freak or a geek? Have you ever felt like one? Luke Jackson is 13 years old and has Asperger Syndrome. Over the years Luke has learned to laugh at such names but there are other aspects of life which are more difficult. Adolescence and the teenage years are a minefield of emotions, transitions and decisions and when a child has Asperger Syndrome, the result is often explosive. Luke has three sisters and one brother in various stages of their adolescent and teenage years but he is acutely aware of just how different he is and how little information is available for adolescents like himself. Drawing from his own experiences and gaining information from his teenage brother and sisters, he wrote this enlightening, honest and witty book in an attempt to address difficult topics such as bullying, friendships, when and how to tell others about AS, school problems, dating, relationships and morality. Luke writes briefly about his younger autistic and AD/HD brothers, providing amusing insights into the antics of his younger years and advice for parents, carers and teachers of younger AS children. However, his main reason for writing was because so many books are written about us, but none are written directly to adolescents with Asperger Syndrome. I thought I would write one in the hope that we could all learn together.



## [A Kind of Spark](#)

*Elle McNicoll | Age 10+ | Autism spectrum disorder*

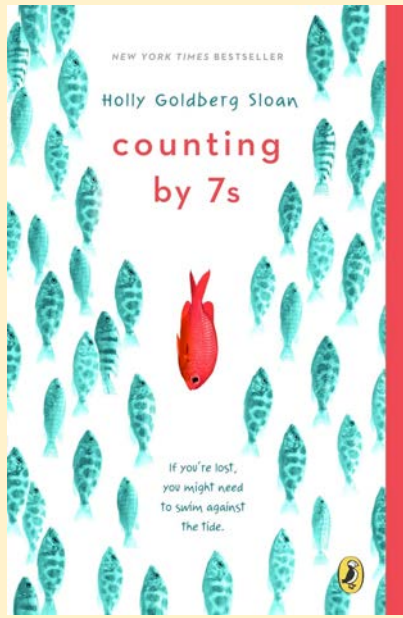
Perfect for readers of *Song for a Whale* and *Counting by 7s*, a neurodivergent girl campaigns for a memorial when she learns that her small Scottish town used to burn witches simply because they were different.

"A must-read for students and adults alike." -School Library Journal, Starred Review

Ever since Ms. Murphy told us about the witch trials that happened centuries ago right here in Juniper, I can't stop thinking about them. Those people weren't magic. They were like me. Different like me.

I'm autistic. I see things that others do not. I hear sounds that they can ignore. And sometimes I feel things all at once. I think about the witches, with no one to speak for them. Not everyone in our small town understands. But if I keep trying, maybe someone will. I won't let the witches be forgotten. Because there is more to their story. Just like there is more to mine.

Award-winning and neurodivergent author Elle McNicoll delivers an insightful and stirring debut about the European witch trials and a girl who refuses to relent in the fight for what she knows is right.



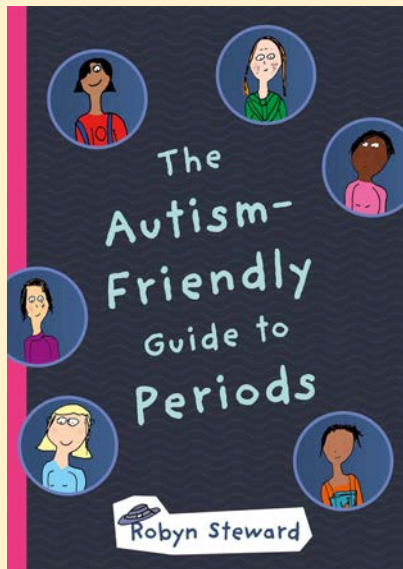
### Counting By 7s

*Holly Goldberg Sloan | Age 10+ | Autism spectrum disorder*

In the tradition of *Out of My Mind*, *Wonder*, and *Mockingbird*, this is an intensely moving middle grade novel about being an outsider, coping with loss, and discovering the true meaning of family.

Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life . . . until now.

Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is not a tragedy. This extraordinarily odd, but extraordinarily endearing, girl manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.



### The Autism Friendly Guide to Periods

*Robyn Steward | Age 10+ | Autism spectrum disorder*

Written by autistic author Robyn Steward, this is a detailed guide for young people aged 9 to 16 on the basics of menstruation. Created in consultation with young people, an online survey and a group of medical professionals, this is a book that teaches all people about periods, which can be a scary and overwhelming issue.

Promoting the fact that everyone either has periods or knows someone who does, the book reduces the anxiety girls face in asking for help. It offers direct advice on what periods look and feel like and how to manage hygiene and pain. It also breaks up information using flaps and step-by-step photos of how to change pads and tampons, it discusses alternatives to tampons and pads, and gives information about possible sensory issues for people with autism.



## [Planet Earth is Blue](#)

*Nicole Panteleakos | Age 11-12 | Nonverbal Autism spectrum disorder*

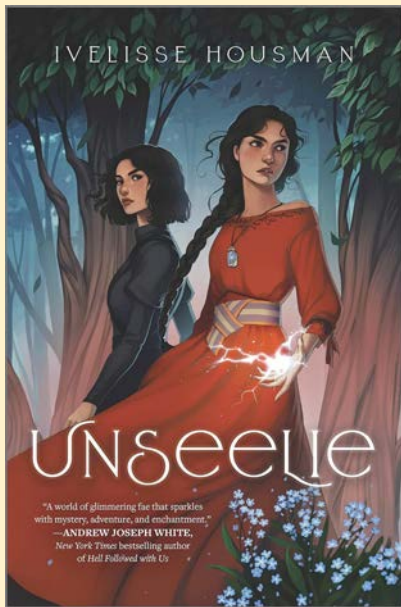
"Tender and illuminating. A beautiful debut." --Rebecca Stead, Newbery Medal-winning author of *When You Reach Me*

A heartrending and hopeful debut novel about a nonverbal girl and her passion for space exploration, for fans of *See You in the Cosmos*, *Mockingbird*, and *The Thing About Jellyfish*.

Twelve-year-old Nova is eagerly awaiting the launch of the space shuttle Challenger--it's the first time a teacher is going into space, and kids across America will watch the event on live TV in their classrooms. Nova and her big sister, Bridget, share a love of astronomy and the space program. They planned to watch the launch together. But Bridget has disappeared, and Nova is in a new foster home.

While foster families and teachers dismiss Nova as severely autistic and nonverbal, Bridget understands how intelligent and special Nova is, and all that she can't express. As the liftoff draws closer, Nova's new foster family and teachers begin to see her potential, and for the first time, she is making friends without Bridget. But every day, she's counting down to the launch, and to the moment when she'll see Bridget again. Because Bridget said, "No matter what, I'll be there. I promise."

## Young adult/high school



## [Unseele](#)

*Ivelisse Houseman | Age 16+ | Autism spectrum disorder*

The start of a swoony, high-energy duology that Emily Lloyd-Jones, author of *The Bone Houses*, calls "reminiscent of classic fairytales yet brimming with a charm all its own."

"A world of glimmering fae that sparkles with mystery, adventure, and enchantment."  
—Andrew Joseph White, New York Times bestselling author of *Hell Followed with Us*

Iselia "Seelie" Graygrove looks just like her twin, Isolde...but as an autistic changeling left in the human world by the fae as an infant, she has always known she is different. Seelie's unpredictable magic makes it hard for her to fit in—and draws her and Isolde into the hunt for a fabled treasure. In a heist gone wrong, the sisters make some unexpected allies and find themselves unraveling a mystery that has its roots in the history of humans and fae alike.

Both sisters soon discover that the secrets of the faeries may be more valuable than any pile of gold and jewels. But can Seelie harness her magic in time to protect her sister and herself?

"Housman's stunning debut is the sort of love letter only an autistic author could write. Fae canon has been waiting for this one." —H.E. Edgmon, author of *The Witch King*





## [Unending \(Unseelie #2\)](#)

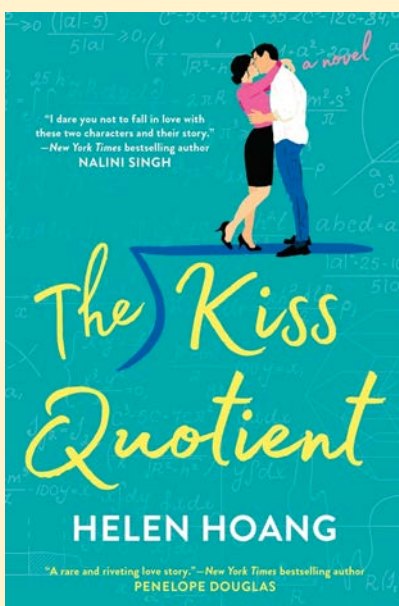
*Ivelisse Houseman | Age 16+ | Autism spectrum disorder*

In this high-octane conclusion to the Unseelie duology, which Andrew Joseph White calls “a portal to a world of glimmering fae and blistering magic,” two sisters discover that the things that make them different can lend them more power than they ever imagined.

Isolde Graygrove has always put her changeling twin sister first. But ever since Seelie returned from the faerie realms with a newfound confidence in her magic and secrets she’s keeping even from her twin, Isolde can’t help but wonder: who is she, if not her sister’s protector?

Seelie knows there are some problems even magic can’t solve. Like the distance between her and Isolde, the terror of her growing and unfamiliar emotions for Raze, or the fact that the world’s last firedrake has imprinted on her like a baby duckling. Still, she can’t help but try.

When Seelie accidentally splinters the three realms, tangling the human and faerie worlds together into something new, the vicious faerie Gossamer is determined to take full advantage of the chaos unleashed. Seelie and Isolde will need to spill their secrets, decide who they can trust, and navigate the sinister glamour of the faerie courts to save humankind and fae alike.



## [The Kiss Quotient](#)

*Helen Hoang | Age 17+ | Autism spectrum disorder*

From the author of *The Bride Test* comes a romance novel hailed as one of *The Washington Post*’s 50 Notable Works of Fiction in 2018 and one of Amazon’s Top 100 Books of 2018!

“This is such a fun read and it’s also quite original and sexy and sensitive.”—Roxane Gay, *New York Times* bestselling author

“Hoang’s writing bursts from the page.”—Buzzfeed

A heartwarming and refreshing debut novel that proves one thing: there’s not enough data in the world to predict what will make your heart tick.

Stella Lane thinks math is the only thing that unites the universe. She comes up with algorithms to predict customer purchases—a job that has given her more money than she knows what to do with, and way less experience in the dating department than the average thirty-year-old.

It doesn’t help that Stella has Asperger’s and French kissing reminds her of a shark getting its teeth cleaned by pilot fish. Her conclusion: she needs lots of practice—with a professional. Which is why she hires escort Michael Phan. The Vietnamese and Swedish stunner can’t afford to turn down Stella’s offer, and agrees to help her check off all the boxes on her lesson plan—from foreplay to more-than-missionary position...

Before long, Stella not only learns to appreciate his kisses, but crave all of the other things he’s making her feel. Their no-nonsense partnership starts making a strange



kind of sense. And the pattern that emerges will convince Stella that love is the best kind of logic...

\*Content warning: sexually explicit scenes



## [Loveboat Reunion](#)

*Abigail Hing Wen | YA | Dyslexia*

This companion novel to Abigail Hing Wen's New York Times bestselling debut, *Loveboat, Taipei*, takes readers back to Taipei through the eyes of fan favorites Sophie and Xavier—on an unforgettable journey of glittering revelry and self-discovery that's perfect for fans of Jenny Han and Mary H. K. Choi.

Stream *Love in Taipei*, the movie adaptation of *Loveboat, Taipei*, now available on multiple streaming platforms, including Paramount+, Amazon Prime, and Apple TV!

Don't miss *Loveboat Forever*, the third companion novel in the series, on sale November 2023!

Sophie Ha and Xavier Yeh have what some would call a tumultuous past.

Hearts were broken, revenge was plotted—but at least they're friends now. They left the drama behind them back in Taipei—at their summer program, *Loveboat—forever*.

Now that fall is here, they're focusing on what really matters. Sophie has sworn off boys and is determined to be the best student Dartmouth's ever had. Xavier just wants to stay under his overbearing father's radar, collect his trust fund when he turns eighteen, and concentrate on what makes him happy.

But the world doesn't seem to want Sophie and Xavier to succeed. Sophie's college professor thinks her first major project is "too feminine." Xavier's father gives him an ultimatum: finish high school or be cut off from his inheritance.

Then Sophie and Xavier find themselves on a wild, nonstop *Loveboat* reunion, hatching a joint plan to take control of their futures. Can they succeed together . . . or are they destined to combust?

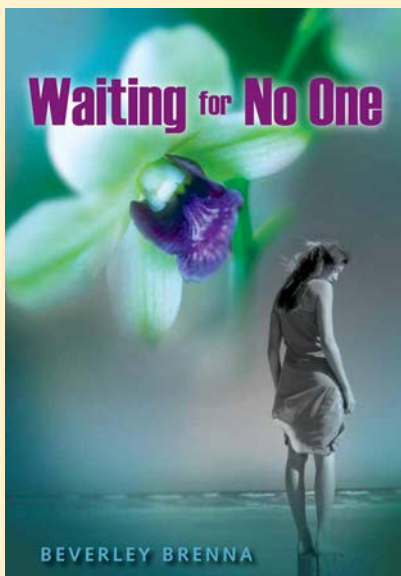


### [Wild Orchid](#)

*Beverley Brenna | YA | Autism spectrum disorder*

Taylor Jane Simon is 18 years old and spending the summer with her mother in Prince Albert National Park. The holiday has been planned so Taylor's mother can spend time with her latest boyfriend, Danny, and work in the pizza restaurant near the park that Danny runs. Taylor would just as soon stay at home in Saskatoon, but because she suffers from an autistic condition called Asperger's Syndrome, she can't stay on her own. Taylor's mother encourages her daughter to explore the park's possibilities on her own. For Taylor, whose life experience has been seriously limited, this means facing the test of meeting new people who work in the park's nature center - and facing it alone. Summer also holds out the possibility of finding her own boyfriend, though Taylor isn't quite sure what that may involve. What she discovers will change her life forever. Written as an epistolary novel, *Wild Orchid* is frank but optimistic, literal yet innocent.

A courageous wit attends Taylor's gradual emergence as her own person, and the reader will find the exploration of Taylor's mind a revealing and heartwarming encounter.



### [Waiting for No One](#)

*Beverley Brenna | YA | Autism spectrum disorder*

Taylor Jane Simon is an eighteen-year-old girl with Asperger's Syndrome who has a refreshingly different view of the people she encounters and the life she wants to have. Young adult readers will identify with Taylor's struggle for independence and self-control, and empathize as she outlines the ways -- both positive and negative -- that her Asperger's Syndrome affects her daily life. Connecting with a play by Samuel Beckett, Taylor explores a fear of solitary existence while reaching out to a world at times perplexing. Most important, Taylor wants to be seen as an individual, not as a stereotypical "person with special needs," or a rare wild flower -- images that haunt her from the past. A cameo performance by Taylor's new gerbil -- Harold Pinter-- adds further emphasis to themes of existentialism and humour.

The International Dolly Gray Children's Literature Award Winner

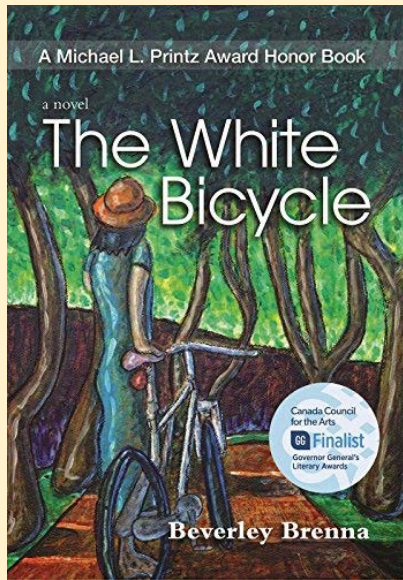
Saskatoon Book Award Nominee

CLA Young Adult Book Award Nominee

CYBILS Award Nominee

Woozles' Battle of the Books Teen List Title, 2012

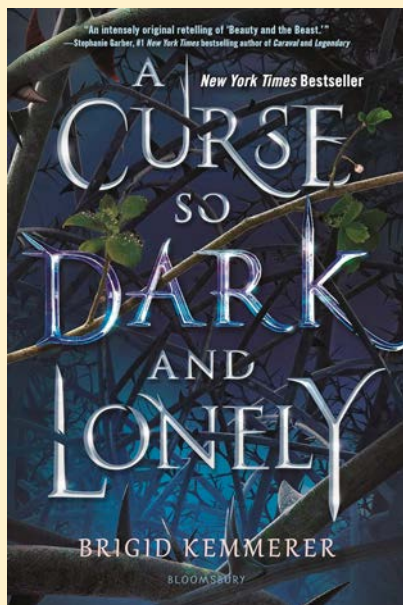
*Waiting for No One* is the stand-alone sequel to *Wild Orchid*, which was shortlisted for the Canadian Library Association's prestigious Young Adult Book Award, a number of provincial readers' choice awards, and is a starred selection from the Canadian Children's Book Centre. *Wild Orchid* also appears on the New York Public Library's list of Recommended Books for the teens.



### [The White Bicycle](#)

*Beverley Brenna | YA | Autism spectrum disorder*

The White Bicycle is the third title in the Wild Orchid trilogy following the adventures of Taylor Jane, a young woman with Asperger's Syndrome. In The White Bicycle, Taylor travels to the south of France with her mother and her friends. She is going to be working for the summer babysitting for the Phoenix family. While on this journey Taylor will embark on another quest for independence both personal and universal as she casts her mind back to her earliest memories.



### [A Curse So Dark and Lonely](#)

*Brigid Kemmerer | YA | Cerebral palsy*

A New York Times bestseller!

"Has everything you'd want in a retelling of a classic fairy tale." - Jodi Picoult

In a lush, contemporary fantasy retelling of Beauty and the Beast, Brigid Kemmerer gives readers another compulsively readable romance perfect for fans of Marissa Meyer.

Fall in love, break the curse.

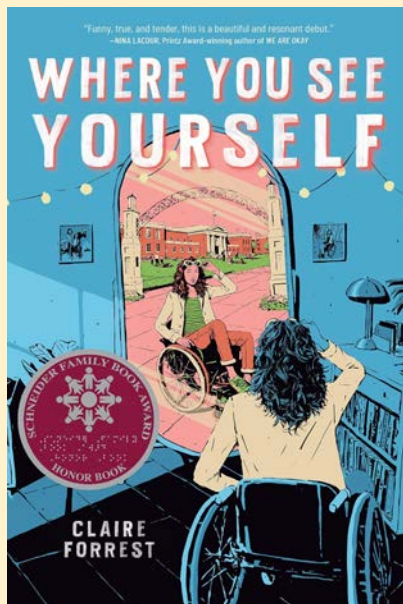
It once seemed so easy to Prince Rhen, the heir to Emberfall. Cursed by a powerful enchantress to repeat the autumn of his eighteenth year over and over, he knew he could be saved if a girl fell for him. But that was before he learned that at the end of each autumn, he would turn into a vicious beast hell-bent on destruction. That was before he destroyed his castle, his family, and every last shred of hope.

Nothing has ever been easy for Harper. With her father long gone, her mother dying, and her brother barely holding their family together while constantly underestimating her because of her cerebral palsy, she learned to be tough enough to survive. But when she tries to save someone else on the streets of Washington, DC, she's instead somehow sucked into Rhen's cursed world.

Break the curse, save the kingdom.

A prince? A monster? A curse? Harper doesn't know where she is or what to believe. But as she spends time with Rhen in this enchanted land, she begins to understand what's at stake. And as Rhen realizes Harper is not just another girl to charm, his hope comes flooding back. But powerful forces are standing against Emberfall . . . and it will take more than a broken curse to save Harper, Rhen, and his people from utter ruin.





## [Where You See Yourself](#)

*Claire Forrest* | YA | *Cerebral palsy*

A Schneider Family Book Award Honor Book

What does it take to follow your dreams? *Where You See Yourself* is a relatable, romantic, and necessary story about a girl who has to figure out what--and who--will bring her the happiness she deserves.

By the time Effie Galanos starts her senior year, it feels like she's already been thinking about college applications for an eternity—after all, finding a college that will be the perfect fit and be accessible enough for Effie to navigate in her wheelchair presents a ton of considerations that her friends don't have to worry about.

What Effie hasn't told anyone is that she already knows exactly what school she has her heart set on: a college in NYC with a major in Mass Media & Society that will set her up perfectly for her dream job in digital media. She's never been to New York, but paging through the brochure, she can picture the person she'll be there, far from the Minneapolis neighborhood where she's lived her entire life. When she finds out that Wilder (her longtime crush) is applying there too, it seems like one more sign from the universe that it's the right place for her.

But it turns out that the universe is full of surprises. As Effie navigates her way through a year of admissions visits, senior class traditions, internal and external ableism, and a lot of firsts--and lasts--she starts to learn that sometimes growing up means being open to a world of possibilities you never even dreamed of. And maybe being more than just friends with Wilder is one of those dreams...



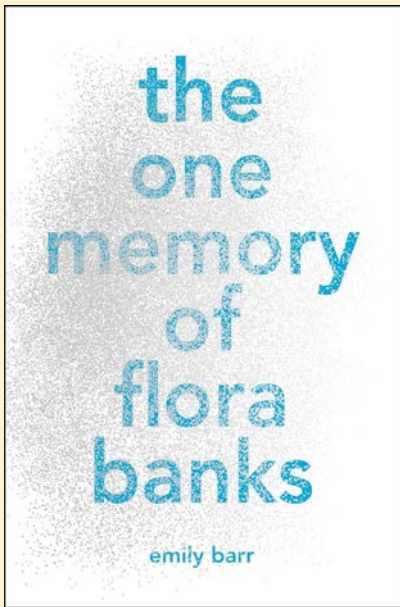
## [On the Edge of Gone](#)

*Corinne Duyvis* | YA | *Autism spectrum disorder*

A thrilling, thought-provoking novel from one of young-adult literature's boldest new talents.

January 29, 2035. That's the day the comet is scheduled to hit—the big one. Denise and her mother and sister, Iris, have been assigned to a temporary shelter outside their hometown of Amsterdam to wait out the blast, but Iris is nowhere to be found, and at the rate Denise's drug-addicted mother is going, they'll never reach the shelter in time. A last-minute meeting leads them to something better than a temporary shelter—a generation ship, scheduled to leave Earth behind to colonize new worlds after the comet hits. But everyone on the ship has been chosen because of their usefulness. Denise is autistic and fears that she'll never be allowed to stay. Can she obtain a spot before the ship takes flight? What about her mother and sister? When the future of the human race is at stake, whose lives matter most?





### [The One Memory of Flora Banks](#)

*Emily Barr | YA | Lack of short-term memory*

It's not a lie if you can't remember the truth.

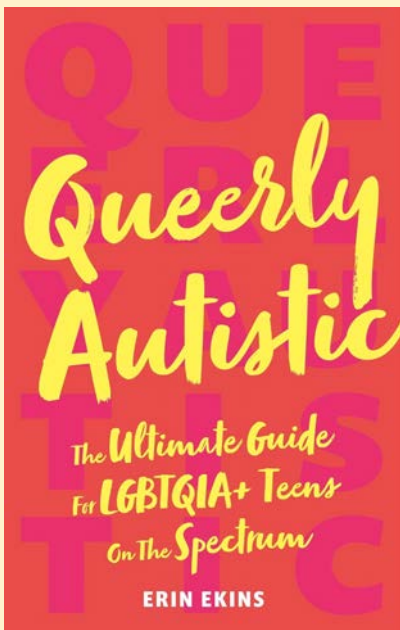
"Mesmerizing, electric, and achingly lovely, *The One Memory of Flora Banks* is unforgettable. One of the best YA novels I've read in a very long time."

--Jennifer Niven, New York Times bestselling author of *All the Bright Places*

Seventeen-year-old Flora Banks has no short-term memory. Her mind resets itself several times a day, and has since the age of ten, when the tumor that was removed from Flora's brain took with it her ability to make new memories. That is, until she kisses Drake, her best friend's boyfriend, the night before he leaves town. Miraculously, this one memory breaks through Flora's fractured mind, and sticks. Flora is convinced that Drake is responsible for restoring her memory and making her whole again. So, when an encouraging email from Drake suggests she meet him on the other side of the world—in Svalbard, Norway—Flora knows with certainty that this is the first step toward reclaiming her life.

But will following Drake be the key to unlocking Flora's memory? Or will the journey reveal that nothing is quite as it seems?

Already a bestselling debut in the UK, this unforgettable novel is *Memento* meets *We Were Liars* and will have you racing through the pages to unravel the truth.

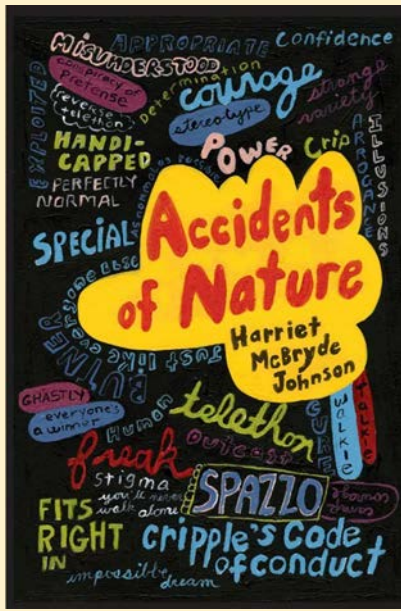


### [Queerly Autistic: The Ultimate Guide for LGBTQIA+ Teens on the Spectrum](#)

*Erin Ekins | YA | Autism spectrum disorder*

In this empowering and honest guide for LGBTQIA+ autistic teens, Erin Ekins gives you all the tools you need to figure out and explore your gender identity and sexuality. From coming out to friends and family, staying safe in relationships and practicing safe sex, through to self-care and coping with bullying, being out and about in the LGBTQIA+ community and undergoing gender transition, this book is filled with essential information, advice, support and resources to help you on your journey, and also works as a primer on all things LGBTQIA+ for non-autistic teens who are just figuring it all out.

Written by an inspirational autistic queer woman, this is a must-read for every autistic teen wanting to live their very best queer life.



## Accidents of Nature

Harriet McBryde Johnson | YA | Cerebral palsy

"I'm in the middle of a full-blown spaz-attack, and I don't care. I don't care at all. At home I always try to act normal, and spaz-attacks definitely aren't normal. Here, people understand. They know a spaz-attack signals that I'm excited. They're excited too, so they squeal with me; some even spaz on purpose, if you can call that spazzing . . .

An unforgettable coming-of-age novel about what it's like to live with a physical disability

It's the summer of 1970. Seventeen-year-old Jean has cerebral palsy, but she's always believed she's just the same as everyone else. She's never really known another disabled person before she arrives at Camp Courage. As Jean joins a community unlike any she has ever imagined, she comes to question her old beliefs and look at the world in a new light. The camp session is only ten days long, but that may be all it takes to change a life forever.

Henry Holt published Harriet McBryde Johnson's adult memoir, *Too Late to Die Young*, in April 2005. Ms. Johnson has been featured in *The New York Times Magazine* and has been an activist for disability rights for many years.

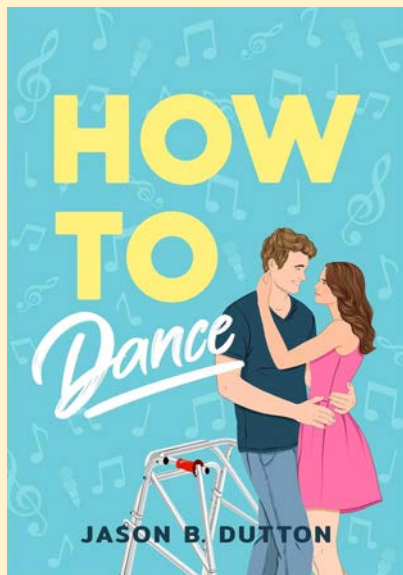


## Something More

Jackie Khalilieh | YA | Autism spectrum disorder

A contemporary teen romance novel featuring a Palestinian-Canadian girl trying to hide her autism diagnosis while navigating her first year of high school, for fans of Jenny Han and Samira Ahmed.

Fifteen-year-old Jessie, a quirky loner obsessed with the nineties, is diagnosed as autistic just weeks before starting high school. Determined to make a fresh start and keep her diagnosis a secret, Jessie creates a list of goals that range from acquiring two distinct eyebrows to getting a magical first kiss and landing a spot in the school play. Within the halls of Holy Trinity High, she finds a world where things are no longer black and white and quickly learns that living in color is much more fun. But Jessie gets more than she bargained for when two very different boys steal her heart, forcing her to go off-script.



## [How to Dance](#)

*Jason B. Dutton | YA | Cerebral palsy*

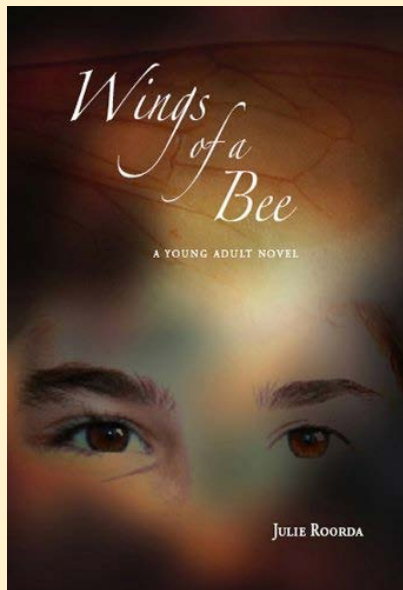
Opposites attract and sparks fly as a passionate dancer and a ladies' man who's given up on love fall for each other—one tango at a time—in this charming debut romance perfect for fans of Talia Hibbert and Blair Fell.

Nick Freeman works hard as the star of the weekly karaoke night at his bar, hoping his singing talent, quick wit, and winning smile will distract from his cerebral palsy. But one night at the bar, watching a professional dancer light up the dance floor with her boyfriend, he realizes that entertaining strangers will never give him a fraction of the joy he sees in this woman's eyes.

When Hayley Burke notices Nick's reaction to her dancing, she urges him to acknowledge his passion and try a few moves himself—only to be mortified when she realizes Nick can only walk with the aid of a metal walker.

As Nick and Hayley fumble through misunderstanding into friendship, Hayley begins to enjoy Nick's company more than that of her self-centered boyfriend. Nick tries to fight his attraction to Hayley, believing she deserves a dance partner who can move like her boyfriend does—but as Hayley and Nick continue to find their rhythm together, she shows him that “dancing” is about so much more than moving your feet.

In this fresh-voiced and utterly charming debut novel, Jason B. Dutton takes readers on a swoon-filled journey as two lost souls learn that neither physical disability nor emotional scars disqualify us from finding beauty, validation, and love amidst the chaos of being human.



## [Wings of a Bee](#)

*Julie Roorda | YA | Cerebral palsy*

Bronwyn Degroot doesn't have many friends, and her quirkiness and strange sense of humor tend to put them off. When her imagined experiments with supernatural poltergeists and otherworldly aliens spill over into real life, she scares off the one friend she has in the neighborhood. The only person who really seems to “get her” is her sister Carey. And Bronwyn has an uncanny knack for understanding Carey, who has cerebral palsy. When Carey gets her hands on a spelling board she demonstrates that, amazingly, she knows how to read and write, proving to the rest of the family what Bronwyn has known all along: her little sister is very smart.

Julie Roorda's poems and short stories have appeared in numerous publications. As well as writing fiction, she works as a writer, editor and researcher with the University of Toronto and the University Health Network. *Wings of a Bee* is Roorda's first novel for young adults.





## [The Pretty One: On Life, Pop Culture, Disability, and Other Reasons to Fall in Love with Me](#)

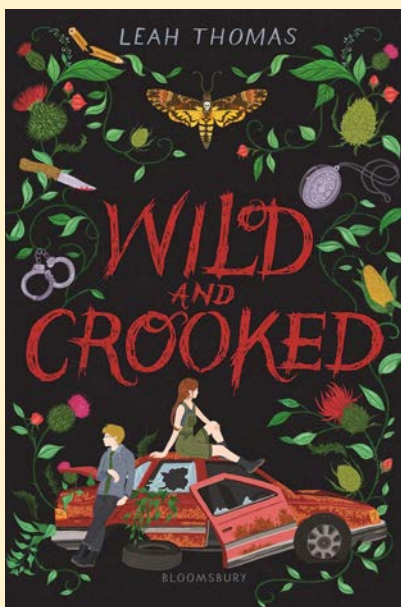
*Keah Brown | YA | Cerebral palsy*

From the disability rights advocate and creator of the #DisabledAndCute viral campaign, a thoughtful, inspiring, and charming collection of essays exploring what it means to be black and disabled in a mostly able-bodied white America.

Keah Brown loves herself, but that hadn't always been the case. Born with cerebral palsy, her greatest desire used to be normalcy and refuge from the steady stream of self-hate society strengthened inside her. But after years of introspection and reaching out to others in her community, she has reclaimed herself and changed her perspective.

In *The Pretty One*, Brown gives a contemporary and relatable voice to the disabled—so often portrayed as mute, weak, or isolated. With clear, fresh, and light-hearted prose, these essays explore everything from her relationship with her able-bodied identical twin (called “the pretty one” by friends) to navigating romance; her deep affinity for all things pop culture—and her disappointment with the media's distorted view of disability; and her declaration of self-love with the viral hashtag #DisabledAndCute.

By “smashing stigmas, empowering her community, and celebrating herself” (*Teen Vogue*), Brown and *The Pretty One* aims to expand the conversation about disability and inspire self-love for people of all backgrounds.



## [Wild and Crooked](#)

*Leah Thomas | YA | Cerebral palsy*

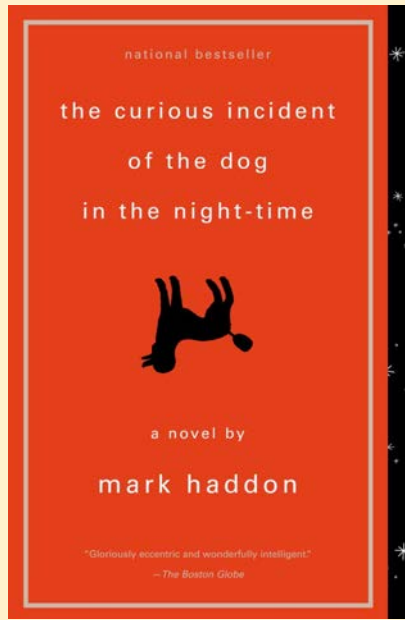
Critically-acclaimed author Leah Thomas blends a small-town setting with the secrets of a long-ago crime, in a compelling novel about breaking free from the past.

In Samsboro, Kentucky, Kalyn Spence's name is inseparable from the brutal murder her father committed when he was a teenager. Forced to return to town, Kalyn must attend school under a pseudonym . . . or face the lingering anger of Samsboro's citizens, who refuse to forget the crime.

Gus Peake has never had the luxury of redefining himself. A Samsboro native, he's either known as the “disabled kid” because of his cerebral palsy, or as the kid whose dad was murdered. Gus just wants to be known as himself.

When Gus meets Kalyn, her frankness is refreshing, and they form a deep friendship. Until their families' pasts emerge. And when the accepted version of the truth is questioned, Kalyn and Gus are caught in the center of a national uproar. Can they break free from a legacy of inherited lies and chart their own paths forward?





## [The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime](#)

Mark Haddon | YA | Autism spectrum disorder

Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the color yellow.

This improbable story of Christopher's quest to investigate the suspicious death of a neighborhood dog makes for one of the most captivating, unusual, and widely heralded novels in recent years.



## [Lizzie Blake's Best Mistake](#)

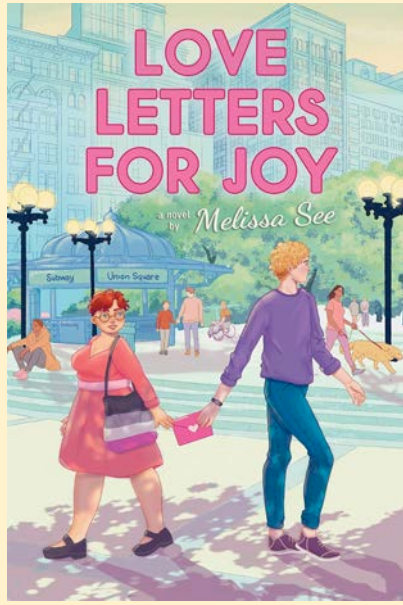
Mazey Eddings | YA | ADHD

Mazey Eddings mixes passion and humor to create a luscious love story between two people stumbling through life and learning to open their hearts in Lizzie Blake's Best Mistake.

Lizzie has made endless mistakes. Kitchen fires, pyramid schemes, bangs (of the hair and human variety), you name it, she's done it... and made a mess of it too. One mistake she's never made is letting anyone get closer to her than a single hook-up. But after losing yet another bakery job due to her uncontrolled ADHD, she breaks her cardinal rule and has a two-night-stand that changes everything.

Once burned, twice shy, Rake has given up on relationships. And feelings. And any form of intimacy for that matter. Yet something about charming, chaotic Lizzie has him lowering his guard. For two nights, that is. Then it's back home to Australia and far away from the pesky feelings Lizzie pulls from him. But when Lizzie tells him she's got an unexpected bun in the oven, he'll do whatever it takes to be a part of his child's life... except be emotionally vulnerable, obviously. He's never going to make that mistake again.

Through a series of mishaps, totally "platonic" single bed sharing, and an underground erotic baking scheme, Lizzie and Rake learn that even the biggest mistakes can have the most beautiful consequences.



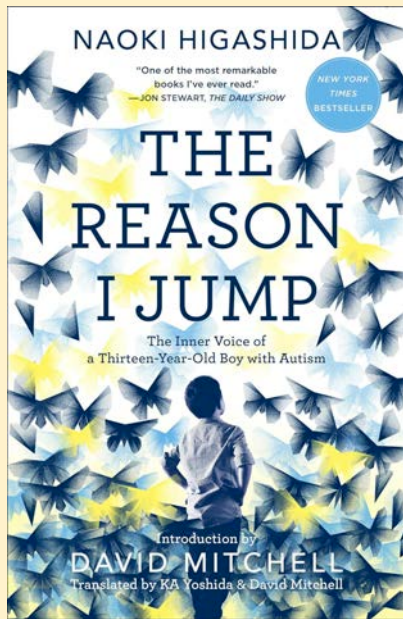
### [Love Letters for Joy](#)

*Melissa See | YA | Cerebral palsy*

A new LGBTQIA+ romance story by the author of *You, Me, and Our Heartstrings*. Less than a year away from graduation, seventeen-year-old Joy is too busy overachieving to be worried about relationships. She's determined to be Caldwell Prep's first disabled valedictorian. And she only has one person to beat, her academic rival Nathaniel.

But it's senior year and everyone seems to be obsessed with pairing up. One of her best friends may be developing feelings for her and the other uses Caldwell's anonymous love-letter writer to snag the girl of her dreams. Joy starts to wonder if she has missed out on a quintessential high school experience. She is asexual, but that's no reason she can't experience first love, right?

She writes to Caldwell Cupid to help her sort out these new feelings and, over time, finds herself falling for the mysterious voice behind the letters. But falling in love might mean risking what she wants most, especially when the letter-writer turns out to be the last person she would ever expect.



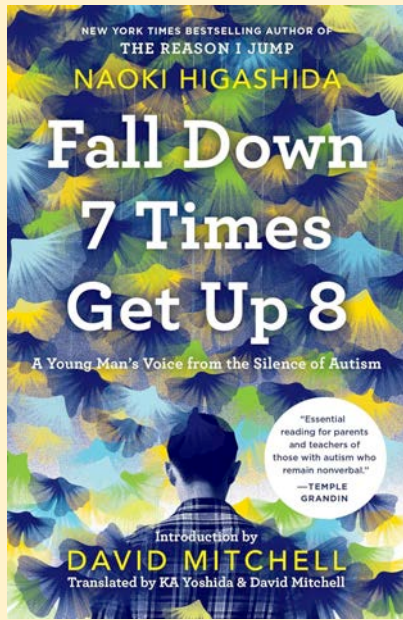
### [The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism](#)

*Naoki Higashida | YA | Autism spectrum disorder*

You've never read a book like *The Reason I Jump*. Written by Naoki Higashida, a very smart, very self-aware, and very charming thirteen-year-old boy with autism, it is a one-of-a-kind memoir that demonstrates how an autistic mind thinks, feels, perceives, and responds in ways few of us can imagine. Parents and family members who never thought they could get inside the head of their autistic loved one at last have a way to break through to the curious, subtle, and complex life within.

Using an alphabet grid to painstakingly construct words, sentences, and thoughts that he is unable to speak out loud, Naoki answers even the most delicate questions that people want to know. Questions such as: "Why do people with autism talk so loudly and weirdly?" "Why do you line up your toy cars and blocks?" "Why don't you make eye contact when you're talking?" and "What's the reason you jump?" (Naoki's answer: "When I'm jumping, it's as if my feelings are going upward to the sky.") With disarming honesty and a generous heart, Naoki shares his unique point of view on not only autism but life itself. His insights—into the mystery of words, the wonders of laughter, and the elusiveness of memory—are so startling, so strange, and so powerful that you will never look at the world the same way again.

In his introduction, bestselling novelist David Mitchell writes that Naoki's words allowed him to feel, for the first time, as if his own autistic child was explaining what was happening in his mind. "It is no exaggeration to say that *The Reason I Jump* allowed me to round a corner in our relationship." This translation was a labor of love by David and his wife, KA Yoshida, so they'd be able to share that feeling with friends, the wider autism community, and beyond. Naoki's book, in its beauty, truthfulness, and simplicity, is a gift to be shared.



## [Fall Down 7 Times, Get Up 8: A Young Man's Voice from the Silence of Autism](#)

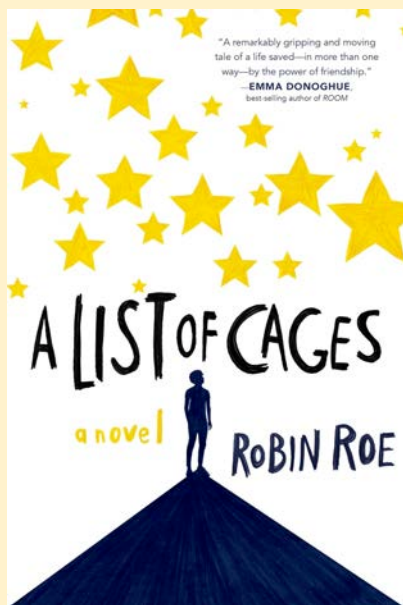
Naoki Higashida | YA | *Autism spectrum disorder*

From the author of the bestselling *The Reason I Jump*, an extraordinary self-portrait of a young adult with autism

“Essential reading for parents and teachers of those with autism who remain nonverbal.”—Temple Grandin

Naoki Higashida was only thirteen when he wrote *The Reason I Jump*, a revelatory account of autism from the inside by a nonverbal Japanese child, which became an international success. Now, in *Fall Down 7 Times Get Up 8*, he shares his thoughts and experiences as a young man living each day with severe autism. In short, powerful chapters, Higashida explores school memories, family relationships, the exhilaration of travel, and the difficulties of speech. He also allows readers to experience profound moments we take for granted, like the thought-steps necessary for him to register that it's raining outside. Acutely aware of how strange his behavior can appear to others, he aims throughout to foster a better understanding of autism and to encourage society to see people with disabilities as people, not as problems.

With an introduction by the bestselling novelist David Mitchell, *Fall Down 7 Times Get Up 8* also includes a dreamlike short story Higashida wrote especially for the U.S. edition. Both moving and of practical use, this book opens a window into the mind of an inspiring young man who meets every challenge with tenacity and good humor. However often he falls down, he always gets back up.



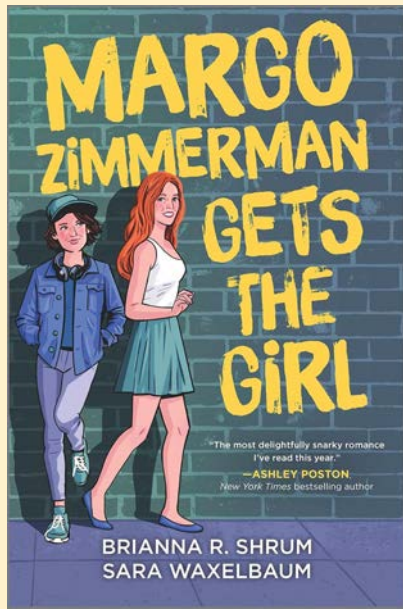
## [A List of Cages](#)

Robin Roe | YA | *ADHD, Dyslexia*

When Adam Blake lands the best elective ever in his senior year, serving as an aide to the school psychologist, he thinks he's got it made. Sure, it means a lot of sitting around, which isn't easy for a guy with ADHD, but he can't complain, since he gets to spend the period texting all his friends. Then the doctor asks him to track down the troubled freshman who keeps dodging her, and Adam discovers that the boy is Julian--the foster brother he hasn't seen in five years.

Adam is ecstatic to be reunited. At first, Julian seems like the boy he once knew. He's still kind hearted. He still writes stories and loves picture books meant for little kids. But as they spend more time together, Adam realizes that Julian is keeping secrets, like where he hides during the middle of the day, and what's really going on inside his house. Adam is determined to help him, but his involvement could cost both boys their lives.





### [Margo Zimmerman Gets the Girl](#)

*Sara Waxelbaum, Brianna R. Shrum | YA | Autism spectrum disorder*

"The most delightfully snarky romance I've read this year." —New York Times bestselling author Ashley Poston

This charming YA rom-com follows Margo, who suddenly realizes that she's gay but has no clue how to express her identity, so she enlists out-and-proud Abbie to act as her tutor on everything "Queer 101"...and first love.

Margo Zimmerman is gay, but she didn't know until now. An overachiever at heart, Margo is determined to ace her newly discovered gayness. All she needs is the right tutor.

Abbie Sokoloff has her own gayness down to a science. But a flunking grade in US History is threatening her acceptance to her dream school. All she needs is the right tutor.

Margo agrees to help Abbie get her history grade up in exchange for "Queer 101" lessons. But as they spend more and more time together, Margo realizes she doesn't want just any girl—she wants the girl.



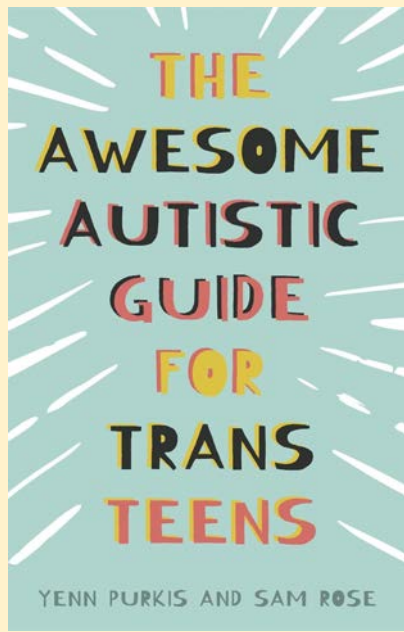
### [Gadget Girl: The Art of Being Invisible](#)

*Suzanne Kamata | YA | Cerebral palsy*

Anna and the French Kiss meets Stoner & Spaz in a contemporary young adult coming-of-age novel about a girl, her struggles, and her art.

Aiko Cassidy is fifteen and lives with her sculptor mother in a small Midwestern town. For most of her young life, Aiko, who has cerebral palsy, has been her mother's muse. But now, she no longer wants to pose for the figures that have made her mother famous. Aiko works hard on her own dream, becoming a sought-after manga artist with a secret identity. When Aiko's mother invites her to Paris for a major exhibition of her work, Aiko resists. She'd much rather go to Japan, Manga Capital of the World, where she might be able to finally meet her father, the indigo farmer. When she gets to France, however, a hot waiter with a passion for manga and an interest in Aiko makes her wonder if being invisible is such a great thing after all.





### [The Awesome Autistic Guide for Trans Teens](#)

*Yenn Purkis, Sam Rose, Glynn Masterman (I) | YA | Autism spectrum disorder*

Calling all awesome autistic trans teens Yenn Purkis and Sam Rose want you to live your best authentic life - and this handy book will show you how

With helpful explanations, tips and activities, plus examples of famous trans and gender divergent people on the autism spectrum, this user-friendly guide will help you to navigate the world as an awesome autistic trans teen.

Covering a huge range of topics including coming out, masking, different gender identities, changing your name, common issues trans and gender divergent people face and ways to help overcome them, building a sense of pride and much, much more, it will empower you to value yourself and thrive exactly as you are.

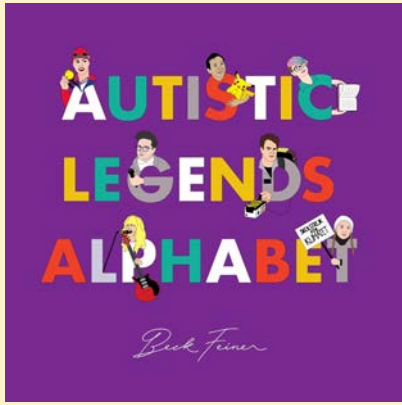
*Age not specified*



### [Sometimes I: Lets Learn About Autism!](#)

*Andrea Rebolgar | Age not specified | Autism spectrum disorder*

Sometimes I... Lets learn about autism, is a child friendly story about Ezra. Ezra wants to share with his peers how being diagnosed with autism can make him different yet unique. Come get to know Ezra, as he explains some of his autism characteristics. Having autism can sometimes make it difficult for Ezra to do things like you and I. However, by getting to know him and his autism traits you can become a great friend to him and all neurodivergent kids. Just remember, when in doubt.. always be kind! Autism is not a disability but a different ability.



### [Autistic Legends Alphabet](#)

*Author | Age not specified | Autism spectrum disorder*

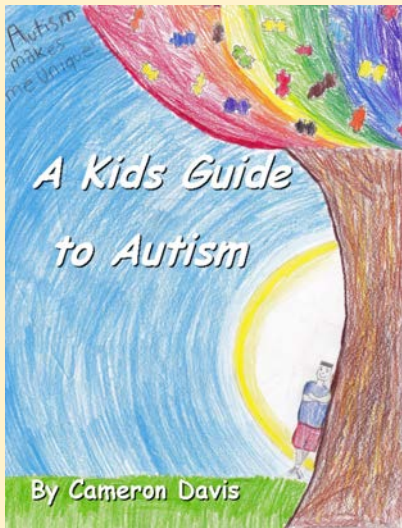
From Dan Aykroyd to Bobby Fischer, Jodi DiPiazza to Greta Thunberg, Autistic Legends Alphabet presents a wide - ranging A to Z of inspiring people on the Autism spectrum. Beautifully illustrated and movingly written, this unique Alphabet Legends title is a 'must read' for every young person on the spectrum, and their family.



### [Dyslexia Legends Alphabet](#)

*Beck Feiner | Age not specified | Dyslexia*

From Albert Einstein to Agatha Christie, Pablo Picasso to JFK, Dyslexic Legends Alphabet presents an eye-opening and motivational A to Z of legends with dyslexia who have made their inspirational mark on our world. This book is a must- read for any child who may be struggling at school or feel like their dyslexia is holding them back from achieving greatness.



### [A Kid's Guide to Autism](#)

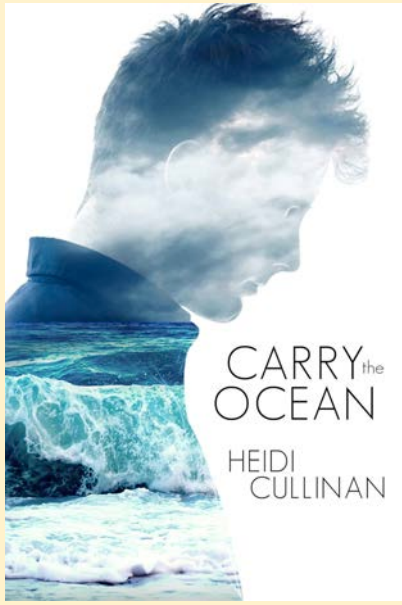
*Cameron Davis | Age not specified | Autism spectrum disorder*

Most people look at Autism as a disability because they only see someone who isn't acting "normal" and they haven't learned about Autism. I think of Autism as just another type of person who does things a little differently.

You might be wondering why I think of Autism differently than most people. This is because my little brother Carter has Autism. Carter is 6 years old and he is the best little brother.

One out of 88 children in the United States has Autism, so at some point in your life, you will know someone that has it.

Cameron Davis is a second grade student at Village Elementary located in Hilton, NY. He lives with his parents, two brothers, and dog.



### [Carry the Ocean](#)

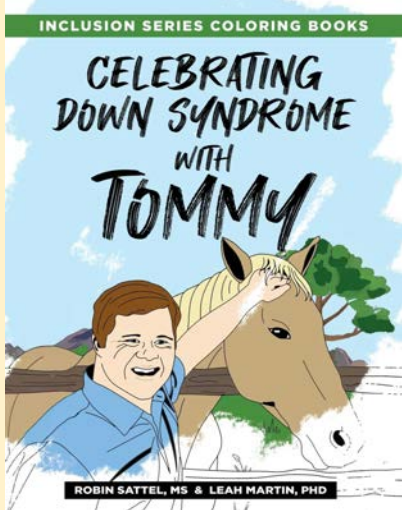
*Heidi Cullinan | Age not specified | Autism spectrum disorder*

Normal is just a setting on the dryer.

High school graduate Jeremy Samson is looking forward to burying his head under the covers and sleeping until it's time to leave for college. Then a tornado named Emmet Washington enters his life. The young man with a double major in math and computer science is handsome, forward, wicked smart, interested in dating Jeremy—and he has autism.

But Jeremy doesn't judge him for that. He's too busy judging himself, as are his parents, who don't believe in things like clinical depression. When Jeremy's untreated illness reaches a critical breaking point, Emmet is the white knight who rescues him and brings him along as a roommate to The Roosevelt, a quirky new assisted living facility.

As Jeremy and Emmet find their feet at The Roosevelt, they begin to believe they can be loved for the men they are beyond their disabilities. But before they can trust enough to fall head over heels, they must trust their own convictions that friendship is a healing force and love can overcome any obstacle.

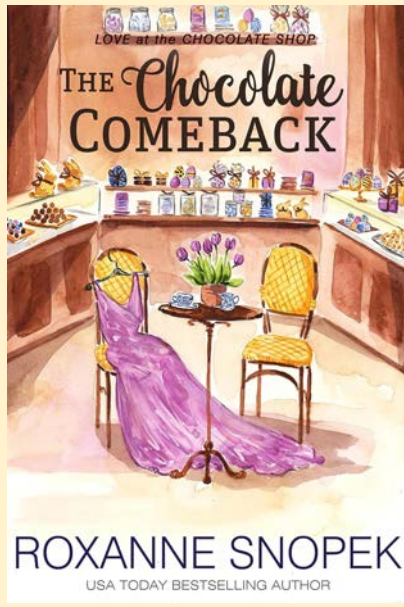


### [Celebrating Down Syndrome with Tommy](#)

*Robin Sattel, Leah Martin | Age not specified | Down syndrome*

Our Inclusion Series Coloring Books provide the unique opportunity to read stories about real individuals with intellectual and developmental dis-ABILITIES (IDD) while enjoying the benefits of mindfulness-based coloring activities. These books make great gifts for new and expectant parents; they are an excellent outreach tool for disability-related nonprofit organizations; and they are a cheerful, positive educational tool for educators and healthcare providers alike. Help spread our positive message about individuals with IDD living happy, meaningful, inclusive lives.

In Celebrating Down Syndrome with Tommy we learn about Tommy's life, from infancy to adulthood. We hear directly from Tommy about the events, activities, and people who have made his life amazing, as well as how Tommy has positively impacted the lives of all the people who love him. This book will teach you more about Down syndrome as you use your creative coloring talents to add color and texture to the pictures depicting Tommy's inclusive, joy-filled life!



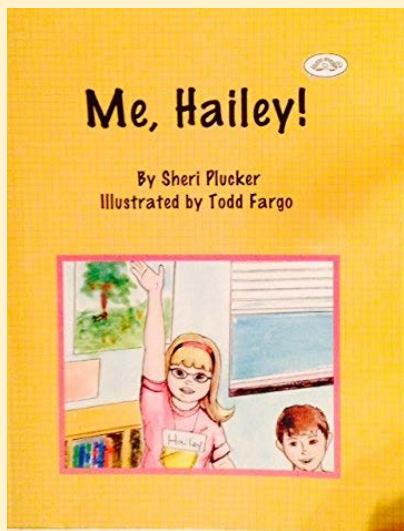
### [The Chocolate Comeback](#)

*Roxanne Snopek | Age not specified | Down syndrome*

Fame, fortune and fashion: that's aspiring model Deirdre Cash's ideal life. But when her splashy New York career dries up, she swallows her pride and returns to Marietta, Montana, desperate for any work she can find.

Isaac Litton doesn't want the intrusion of a home care aide for his brother, Mark. But when the young man takes a shine to DeeDee, Isaac decides to give her a chance. He can't help but be impressed when DeeDee changes his brother's life around, by rewarding healthy habits and exercising with treats from the Copper Mountain Chocolate Shop. Gorgeous and opinionated, DeeDee stirs everything up in the Litton household, including an attraction that Isaac can't deny.

As DeeDee and Isaac start to fall for each other, an unexpected opportunity arises that could launch DeeDee back into the modeling scene. It's her chance to achieve everything she's ever wanted. But taking it would mean letting down her friends at the chocolate shop, her family who believes in her, a boy who adores her, and a man who thinks she's already perfect, just the way she is.



### [Me, Hailey](#)

*Sheri Plucker, Todd Fargo (I) | Age npt specified | Down syndrome*

An understanding teacher helps her students welcome Hailey, a five-year-old with Down Syndrome who is excited about starting kindergarten.





### [Lucy's Amazing Friend: A Story of Autism and Friendship](#)

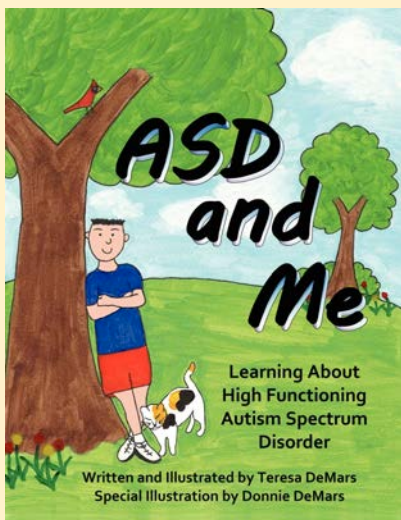
*Stephanie Workman | Age not specified | Autism spectrum disorder*

Lucy doesn't understand why the new boy in Miss Reed's class doesn't like her. "I said hi and he ignored me," she said.

"Lucy, that's Daniel. He has autism," Miss Miller responded.

"What's autism?" asked Lucy.

From that moment on Lucy works to make friends with Daniel in this bright, upbeat book about autism. Once she succeeds, Lucy becomes determined that the other kids in the class learn to accept Daniel as well.



### [ASD and Me: Learning About High Functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder](#)

*Teresa DeMars | Age not specified | Autism spectrum disorder*

IMPROVED & UPDATED! Back in 2010, author Teresa DeMars went looking for a book to explain autism to her son. When she couldn't find one that fit the characteristics of his autism, she wrote ASD and Me. Written for kids diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, PDD-NOS, or autism, parents will appreciate the way this heartwarming children's picture book will help them explain Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) to their child on the spectrum. ASD and Me is written from the point of view of Eli, a seven-year-old boy who has ASD. Through the story, Eli explains how he was diagnosed, and how ASD affects the way he thinks and interprets the world around him. He also talks about some of the social and life skills he has learned that help him fit in with others. The story concludes with some of the interests and activities Eli shares with other children. ASD and Me is a great book to help introduce the subject of autism to siblings, classmates, extended family and to those on the spectrum. (Updated print version of the book may not be available from third party sellers.)