

BOOKS THAT PORTRAY CHARACTERS WITH DISABILITIES

2014

Compiled by

Kathy Young

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Learning Disabilities and/or Attention Issues

Thank You, Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco (Grades K-5) /dyslexia

•**Sahara Special** by Esme Raji Codell (Grades 3- 6)

Do Bananas Chew Gum? by Jamie Gilson(Grades 3+)

Percy Jackson Series by Rick Riordan (Grades 5+)/ dyslexia and ADHD

My Name is Brian Brain by Jeanne Betancourt (Grades 5+)/dyslexia

Tom's Special Talent by Kate Gaynor (Grades 3+)/dyslexia

•**Okay for Now** by Gary Schmidt (Grades 5+) /reading difficulties

The Art of Miss Chew by Patricia Polacco (Grades 3-6)

Junkyard Wonders by Patricia Polacco (Grade 2+)/ learning disabilities

Two-Minute Drill : A Comeback Kids Novel by Mike Lupica (Grade+ 2+)

Yellow Bird and Me by Joyce Hansen (Grades 4+) /reading difficulties

Yours Turly, Shirley by Ann M. Martin (Grades 3+/dyslexia

Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea (Grades 3+/various

There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom by Louis Sachar (Grades 3+) / ADHD

After Ever After by Jordan Sonnenblick (Grades 5+)/chemo-induced learning difficulties

•**Waiting for Normal** by Leslie Donner (Grades 5+)

Dying to Know You by Aiden Chambers /dyslexia

Spellwrite by Blake Charlton (Grades 4+)/fantasy with a dyslexic character

Prove It Josh by Jenny Watson (Grades 3-7)/dyslexia

Flight by Elizabeth Stow Ellison (Grades 4-8) /dyslexia

Bluefish by Pat Schmatz (Grades 5+)/ reading difficulties

May B. by Caroline Starr Rose (Grades 4+)/dyslexia in 19th century Kansas (in verse)

Trout and Me by Susan Shreve (Grades 5-8) /ADD

Double Dutch by Sharon Draper (Grades 6-8)/ illiteracy

Stiks and Stoans by Andrew Mathews/ dyslexia

Hurricane Wills by Sally Grindley (Grades 3-6)/ ADHD

Rescued by a Dog Called Flow by Pippa Goodhart (Grades 3-6) /dyslexia

Secrets at Silver Spires by Ann Bryant learning disabilities

Kids of Polk Street School series by Patricia Riley Gifford (Grades K-3) /learning problems

How to Write Really Badly by Anne Fine

My Life as a Book by Janet Tashjian (Grades 4-7) /reading issues

Back to Front and Upside Down by Claire Alexander (Grades K-3) /writing issues

Hank Zipzer Series by Henry Winkler (Grades 3-6)/ learning disabilities

Joey Pigza Series by Jack Gantos (Grades 5-8) ADHD

Tacky the Penguin by Helen Lester (Grades K-3)

Ms. McCaw Learns to Draw by Kaethe Zemach (Grades K-3)/ learning disabilities

The Don't-give-up Kid and Learning Differences by Jeanne Gehret (Grades K-3)

Josh : A Boy with Dyslexia by Caroline Janover (Grades 3-6)

The Hard Life of Seymour E. Newton by Ann Bixby Herold (Grades K-3) /learning disabilities

Phoebe Flower's Adventures: Phoebe's Lost Treasure by Barbara A. Roberts (Grades K-3)

Mrs. Gorski, I think I Have the Wiggle Fidgets by Barbara Esham (Grades K-3)/ ADHD/LD

Stacey Coolidge's Fancy-Smancy Cursive Handwriting by Barbara Esham (Grades K-3)
writing/LD

If You're So Smart, How Come You Can't Spell Mississippi? by Barbara Esham (Grades K-3)
spelling/ LD

Eleven by Patricia Riley Giff (Grades 3-6)

Last to Finish : A Story About the Smartest Boy in Math Class by Barbara Esham (Grades K-3)
math/ LD

It's Called Dyslexia by Jennifer Moore-Mallinos (Grades K-3) dyslexia

The Alphabet War: A Story About Dyslexia by Diane Burton Robb (Grades 3-6) dyslexia

Lily and the Mixed Up Letters by Deborah Hodge (Grades K-3) dyslexia

The Safe Place by Tehila Peterseil (Grades 4+)/ADD and dyslexia

•**Freak the Mighty** by Rodman Philbrick (Grades 5-8)- LD and birth defect

Max the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick (Grades 4-7)

Reach for the Moon by Samantha Abeel (Grades 5+)/learning disabilities-poetry

•**Close to Famous** by Bauer, J. (Grades 5+)/ reading disability

Just One Friend by Hall/learning disabilities

Keep Stompin' till the Music Stops by Persner/learning disabilities

All Dogs Have ADD by Kathy Hoopmann (photos of dogs showing characteristics)

I'm Somebody by Gehret (Grades 3-6)

Spaceman by Cutler (Grades 5-8)

Eli: The Boy Who Hated to Write: Understanding Dysgraphia by Eli Richards (Grades 3-6)

The Best Fight by Anne Schlieper (Grades 3-6)

Trapped A Novel by Judy Spurr (Grades 3-6)

Learning Disabilities-Biography

Smart on the Inside – A True Story About Succeeding in Spite of Learning Disabilities by
Kathy Young and Eileen Gold Kushner (Grades 5-12)/learning disabilities

Building Wings-How I Made It Through School by Don Johnston and Jerry Stemach (Grades
3+)/learning disabilities

My Thirteenth Winter: A Memoir by Samantha Abeel (grades 7-12) /math disability

Firetalking by Patricia Polacco (Grades 3+)/dyslexia

Still Firetalking by Patricia Polacco (Grades 3+)/dyslexia

The Teacher Who Couldn't Read by John Corcoran (Grades 11+)/dyslexia

Avi by Louis Markham (Grades 4+)/dysgraphia

Learning Outside the Lines by Jonathan Mooney and David Cole (Grades 6+)/dyslexia and ADHD

Contrast by Devin C. Hughes (Grades 12+)/dyslexia

Yes I Can-Struggles From Childhood to the NFL by Neil Smith with Brad Hamann (Grades 3+)/dyslexia

Chuck Close, Up Close by Jan Greenberg (Grades 3+)/ learning disabilities

•**Chuck Close: Face Book** by Chuck Close (Grades 5+)

Author: A True Story by Helen Lester (Grades K-4)

Faking It by Christopher Lee (Grades 9-12) /learning disabilities

Nonfiction

Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World
By Sy Montgomery (Grade 4+)

A Smile as Big as the Moon by Mike Kersjes – (Grades 5+)/SPED class goes to NASA

Succeeding With LD: 20 True Stories About Real People With LD by Jill Lauren (Grades 4+)

Chasing Hope: Your Compass for a New Normal by Christine Walker (adults)/resource for parents of children with autism

Autism/Asperger Syndrome

Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Hadon/autism

Marcelo in the Real World by Francisco Stork (Grades 6+)

•**Navigating Early** by Clare Vanderpool (Grades 6+)

•**The Hunt for the Seventh** by Christine Morton-Shaw (Grades 6+)

Remember Dippy by Shirley Reva Vernick (Grades 5-10)/Autism

Colin Fisher by Miller and Stentz (Grades 8+)

•**Mockingbird** by Kathryn Erskine (Grades 5+)/Asperger syndrome

•**Rules** by Cynthia Lord (Grades 3+)/ autism and paraplegic

Love Anthony by Lisa Genova/ autism

Probably Still Nick Swanson by Virginia Euwer Wolff (Grades 8+)

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd (Grades 4+)

•**Anything but Typical** by Norah Baskin (Grades 5-8) /autism

Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes

Memories of an Imaginary Friend by Matthew Dicks (adult)

The Absolute Value of Mike by Kathryn Erskine (Grades 5-8)

•**Al Capone Does My Shirts** by Gennifer Choldenko(Grades 6-8)/ (autism)

Reinvention of Edison Thomas by Jacqueline Houtman (Grades 5-8)/ Asperger syndrome

Wild Orchid by Beverley Brenna (Grades 9+)/ autism

Apples for Cheyenne by Gerlack (Grades K-4)/autism

All Cats Have Asperger Syndrome by Kathy Hoopmann (photos show characteristics)

Understanding Sam by Niekirk and Venter (Grades 1-4)/Asperger syndrome

I'm Here by Peter Reynolds (Grades 2+)/autism

Physical Challenges

Acorn People by Ron Jones (Grades 5+)/camp for children with disabilities

•**Wonder** by R. J. Palacio (Grades 4+)/facial deformity

•**The Running Dream** by Wendelin Van Draanen (Grades 7+)/loses her leg

Going Bovine by Libba Bray (Grades 6+)/mad cow disease

Gringolandia: A Novel by Lyn Miller-Lachmann

•**Shark Girl** by Bingham (Grades 6-10)/arm amputation

Playing With Matches by Brian Katcher (ages 12+)/disfigured teen

•**Becoming Naomi Leon** by Pam Munoz Ryan (Grades 5-8)/physical disabilities

Head Case by Aronson (Grades 8+)/quadraplegic

Just Because by Rebecca Elliott (Grades K+)/profound disabilities

Samurai Kids #1: White Crane by Sandy Fussell (Grades 5-7)/four characters with disabilities

Stakeout by Bonnie J. Doerr (Grades 5+)/spina bifida

Cerebral Palsy

Accidents of Nature by Johnson, H.M. (Grades 9+) /cerebral palsy

Stoner & Spaz by Ron Koertge (Grades 10+)

•**Petey** by Ben Mikaelson (2000) (Grades 6+)/cerebral palsy

Small Steps by Louis Sachar (Grades 5-8)/cerebral palsy.

The Alfred Summer by Jan Slepian (Grades 5+)/cerebral palsy and intellectual disability

Stuck in Neutral by Terry Trueman (Grades 5+)/ severe cerebral palsy

•**Out of My Mind** by Sharon M. Draper (Grades 4-6)/cerebral palsy

Where I Sit: Making My Way With Cerebral Palsy by Shelley Nixon (Grades 5+)

Window Boy by Andrea White (Grades 4+)/cerebral palsy

Intellectual Disabilities

•**Crazy Lady** by Jane Leslie Conly (Grades 5-9)

•**A Small White Scar** by K. A. Nuzum (Grades 5+)/Down Syndrome

Keeping Up With Roo by Sharlee Glenn (Grades 1+)/intellectual disabilities

•**So B. It** by Sarah Weeks (Grades 5+)/intellectual disability and agoraphobia

Tru Confessions by Janet Tashjian (Grades 4-6)/intellectual disabilities

Me and Rupert Goody by Barbara O'Connor (Grades 5+)/intellectual disabilities

Hearing Impairments

Hurt Go Happy by G. Rorby (Grades 6-8) /Thirteen-year old deaf boy

Wonderstruck: A Novel in Words and Pictures by B. Selznick (Grades 3+)/ Two deaf children

Can You Feel the Thunder? by Lynn E. McElfresh (Grades 5+)/deaf and blind sister

The Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin by Josh Berk (Grades 7+)/deaf

Five Flavors of Dumb by Antony John (Grades 9+)/deaf

Hollow Earth by John and Carole Barrowman (Grades 4+)/deaf

Visual Impairments

Helen's Eyes: A Photobiography of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's Teacher by Marfe Ferguson Delano (Grades 5+)

Gentle's Holler: A Novel by K. Madden (Grades 5+)/blind sister

•**Things Not Seen** by Andrew Clements (Grades 4+)/one character is blind

Keep Your Ear on the Ball by Genevieve Petrillo /blindness

See the Ocean by Estella Condra (Grades 3+) blindness

Knots on a Counting Rope by Martin and Archambault (Grades 3+)/blindness

Pirate of Kindergarten by George Lyan/vision disorder

Blind Boone: Piano Prodigy by Madge Harrah/blind pianist who toured during Civil War

Do You Remember the Color Blue? by Sally Alexander (Grades 5+)/ blindness

The Black Book of Colors by Menena Cottin and Rosana Faria (all ages)/book of color in braille

Other

A Boy and a Jaguar by Alan Rabinowitz (Grades Preschool-3)/stuttering

Forgotten by Cat Patrick (Grades 7+)/Memory

Unforgettable by Loretta Ellsworth (Grades 6+)/memory

The Spaghetti Detectives by Andreas Steinhöfel (Grade 3+)

Alvin Ho Series by Lenore Look (Grade 3+) /selective mutism and anxiety

Total Constant Order by Crissa-Jean Chappell (Grades 8+) /OCD

Hooway for Wodney Wat by Helen Lester (Grades K-3) /lisp and speech

A Mango-Shaped Space: A Novel by Wendy Mass (Grades 5-8)/synesthesia-mixing of senses

• **Ways to Live Forever** by Sally Nicholls (Grades 6-8)/leukemia

• **Words in the Dust** by Trent Reedy (Grades 7-8)/cleft palate

• **Unstoppable** by Tim Green (Grades 5+)/cancer

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green (Grades 9-12)/cancer

Inside Out by Trueman/schizophrenia

Blabber Mouth by Geitzman/speech issues

Jerk, California by Friesen/Tourette's Syndrome

Trigger by Vaught (Grades 8+)/brain damage

Kissing Doorknobs by Terry Spencer Hesser (Grades 5+)/obsessive compulsive disorder

Tending to Grace by Fusco/stuttering

Still Alice by Lisa Genova (Grade8+)/Alzheimer's

Overcome: Burned, Blinded, and Blessed by Carmen Blanden Tarleton (adult)/true story about a face transplant recipient

Left Neglected by Lisa Genova (Grades 8+)/traumatic brain injury

The Thing About Georgie by Lisa Graff (Grades 3-6)/dwarfism

Everything's Okay by Alexia Shute (Grades 4+)/true story about childhood cancer

• *Former or current selections from the Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award List*

Schneider Family Book Awards 2014

Rose Under Fire by Elizabeth Wein (Grades 9+)

Handbook for Dragon Slayers by Merrie Haskell (Grades (5+)/physical disability

A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin by Jen Bryant (Grades 2+)/physical limitations

Schneider Family Book Awards 2013

Somebody, Please Tell Me Who I Am by Harry Mazur (Grades 7+)/traumatic brain injury and autism

A Dog Called Homeless by Sarah Lean (Grades 4-7)/blindness and deafness

Back to Front and Upside Down by Claire Alexander (Grades Pre-School-1)/learning difficulties

Dolly Gray Award Winners 2014

Remember Dippy by Shirley Reva Vernick /autism

Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend by Matthew Dicks /Asperger Syndrome

Dolly Gray Award Winners 2012

•**Mockingbird** by Kathryn Erskine/Asperger Syndrome

Waiting for No One by Beverley Brenna /Asperger Syndrome

My Brother Charlie by Holly Peete and Ryan Peete/Autism

Just Because by Rebecca Elliott/Multiple Disabilities

For Free Resources for Students and Adults With Learning Differences

www.kathyyoung.me