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## Children's Books About Disabilities

This list has been sorted by the books' readability levels. To find what you want, click on a readability grouping below:

[AC = Adult Read to Children](#). For Pre-K to Grade 3, ranging from 10 to 30 pages, with illustrations; typically designed for parents to read to their children.

[JE = Juvenile Easy Reader](#). For children who are beginning to read on their own, such as those in Grades 1-2; ranging from 30 to 80 pages; illustrations are included to break up the text.

[JF = Juvenile Fiction](#). Children's fiction or chapter books; for children in Grades 2-6; ranging from 60 to 200 pages, the books are generally divided into chapters, contain fewer illustrations, and have more complicated plots or concepts than either AC or JE books.

[YA = Young Adult](#). For young adults in Grades 5-12; more complicated plots and topics of general interest to the young adult population.

[A = Adult](#). Contains language and/or content that may be unsuitable for young adults.

**AC – Adult Read to Children**      [Back to All Readability Levels](#)

**Title:** *Andy and His Yellow Frisbee*

**Author:** Mary Thompson

**Publisher:** Woodbine House, 6510 Bells Mill Road, Bethesda, MD 20817; 1996

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-933149-83-2

**Disability:** Autism

**Story Profile:** Sarah is a new girl at school who is curious about why Andy spins his yellow frisbee every day by himself on the playground. When Sara tries to talk to Andy, Rosie, Andy's older sister, watches and worries about how her brother may react. Rosie knows that Andy is in his own world most of the time, and that he has trouble finding the words to express himself.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *A Picture Book of Helen Keller*

**Author:** David A. Adler

**Publisher:** Holiday House

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-8234-0818-3

**Disability:** Deaf-Blind

**Story Profile:** Some salient details in the life of Helen Keller are described in this pictorial biography; her frustration and untamed behavior and the radical changes effected by Anne Sullivan Macy.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Armann and Gentle*

**Author:** Kristin Steinsdottir

**Publisher:** Stuttering Foundation of America, PO Box 11749, Memphis, TN 38111-0749; 1997

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-933388-36-5

**Disability:** Stuttering

**Story Profile:** A six-year-old boy, Armann, stutters when he is frustrated.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *A Very Special Friend*

**Author:** Dorothy Hoffman Levi

**Publisher:** Gallaudet University Press, Kendall Green, 800 Florida Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002-3695; 1989

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-9300323-55-6

**Disability:** Deafness

**Story Profile:** Frannie, a lonely little girl, discovers a new friend when a deaf girl her age moves in next door.  
**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *A Very Special Sister*

**Author:** Dorothy Hoffman Levi

**Publisher:** Gallaudet University Press, Kendall Green, 800 Florida Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002-3695; 1992

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-930323-96-3

**Disability:** Deafness

**Story Profile:** Mixed feelings are experienced by Laura, a young deaf girl, upon finding out her mother will soon give birth. Her initial excitement is replaced by worries that the new child, if able to hear, would be more lovable.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Be Good to Eddie Lee*

**Author:** Virginia Filling

**Publisher:** Philomel Books, Putnam & Grosset Group, 200 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-399-21993-5

**Disability:** Down Syndrome

**Story Profile:** Eddie Lee, a young boy with Down syndrome, follows the neighborhood children into the woods to find frog eggs. They are resentful and try to make him stay home.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Big Brother Dustin*

**Author:** Alden R. Carter

**Publisher:** Albert Whitman & Co., 6340 Oakton Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053-2723; 1997

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-8075-0715-6

**Disability:** Down Syndrome

**Story Profile:** Dustin, a young boy with Down syndrome, learns that his parents are expecting a baby.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Cat's Got Your Tongue?*

**Author:** Charles E. Schaefer, Ph.D.

**Publisher:** Brunner/Mazel, Publishers, 19 Union Square, New York, NY 10003; 1992

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-945354-45-2 hard copy; ISBN-0-945354-46-0 paperback

**Disability:** Communication Disorders, Mutism

**Story Profile:** Anna, a kindergartner, is diagnosed as an electively mute child.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Eukee: The Jumpy Jumpy Elephant*

**Author:** Clifford L. Corman and Esther Trevino

**Publisher:** Specialty Press; 1995

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-921629-8-1

**Disability:** Attention Deficit Disorder

**Story Profile:** Eukee is a smart little elephant who likes to chase butterflies, blow bubbles, and do cartwheels. He always feels jumpy inside, however, and can never finish the march at school. Unhappy that he doesn't have any friends, he consents to a visit to the doctor where he learns he has ADD.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Clover's Secret*

**Author:** Christine M. Winn and David Walsh, Ph.D.

**Publisher:** Fairview Press, 2450 Riverside Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55454; 1996

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-925190-89-6

**Disability:** Child Abuse

**Story Profile:** Clove attempts to hide family violence. She feels much better when she confides in her teacher and the family receives help.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Danny and the Merry-Go-Round*

**Author:** Nan Holcomb

**Publisher:** Jason and Nordic, Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1987

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-944727-00-X

**Disability:** Cerebral Palsy

**Story Profile:** Danny, who has cerebral palsy, visits the park with his mother and watches other children playing

on a playground. He makes friends with a young girl after his mother explains cerebral palsy to her and points out that it is not contagious.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Happy Birthday Jason*

**Author:** C. Jean Cutbill and Diane Rawsthorn

**Publisher:** IPI Publishing Ltd., 50 Prince Arthur Avenue, Suite 306, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 1B5 Canada; 1984

**ISBN #:** 0-920702-37-6

**Disability:** Reading Disability, Dyslexia

**Story Profile:** A delightful story that will help children better understand their world by understanding Jason's. His story reveals that children with learning disabilities are more similar to other children than they are different.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Having a Brother Like David*

**Author:** Cindy Dolby Nollette and Others

**Publisher:** Minneapolis Children's Medical Center, Early Childhood Center,

2520 Minnehaha Ave., South, Minneapolis, MN 55404; 1985

**ISBN #:** N/A

**Disability:** Autism

**Story Profile:** Marty's brother, David, is autistic. Marty explains that David looks a lot like other children but has special needs.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Ian's Walk: A Story About Autism*

**Author:** Laurie Lears

**Publisher:** Albert Whitman and Company, 6340 Oakton St.,

Morton Grove, IL 60053-2723; 1998

**ISBN #:** 0-8075-3480-3

**Disability:** Autism

**Story Profile:** Tara feels frustrated while taking a walk with her autistic brother, Ian. After she becomes separated from him, she learns to appreciate the way Ian experiences the world.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Keith Edward's Different Days*

**Author:** Karen Melberg Schwier

**Publisher:** Impact Publishers

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-915166-74-7

**Disability:** Down Syndrome; Physical Disabilities

**Story Profile:** Keith meets a variety of people with differences, including Down syndrome and physical differences, and learns that being different is okay.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Knots on a Counting Rope*

**Author:** Bill Martin and John Archambault

**Publisher:** Henry Holt

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-8050-0571-4

**Disability:** Blindness

**Story Profile:** A boy is told a story by his grandfather of a boy born blind.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Lee: The Rabbit with Epilepsy*

**Author:** Deborah M. Moss

**Publisher:** Woodbine House, 5615 Fisher's Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; 1989

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-933149-32-8

**Disability:** Epilepsy

**Story Profile:** Lee is a young rabbit who experiences occasional blackouts and trances. After Dr. Bob, the wise owl, administers a series of neurological tests, Lee is told she has epilepsy.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Leo the Late Bloomer*

**Author:** Robert Kraus

**Publisher:** Harper Collins, 1971

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-87807-042-7

**Disability:** Developmental Delays

**Story Profile:** Leo is a tiger cub who just can't keep up with what the other animals are doing. He can't read, write, or speak, and he is a sloppy eater; he's a late bloomer.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Luke Has Asthma, Too*

**Author:** Alison Rogers

**Publisher:** Waterfront Books, 98 Brookes Ave., Burlington, VT 05401; 1987

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-914525-06-9

**Disability:** Asthma

**Story Profile:** Luke has an older cousin who teaches him some aspects of asthma management and serves as a general role model.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *My Brother, Matthew*

**Author:** Mary Thompson

**Publisher:** Woodbine House, 5615 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; 1992

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-993149-47-6

**Disability:** Mental Retardation

**Story Profile:** David is a young boy who describes life with his younger brother who was born with a mental disability.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *My Mom Is Handicapped: A "Grownup" Children's Book*

**Author:** Barbara Turner Brabham

**Publisher:** Cornerstone Publishing, PO Box 2896, Virginia Beach, VA 23450; 1994

**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-882185-22-6

**Disability:** Physical Disabilities

**Story Profile:** A six-year-old boy describes life with his mother, a teacher with physical disabilities.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Otto Learns About His Medicine: A Story About Medication for Hyperactive Children*

**Author:** Matthew Galvin

**Publisher:** Magination Press/Brunner Mazel, 19 Union Square West, New York, NY 10003; 1995

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-945354-04-5 hard copy; ISBN-0-945354-03-7

**Disability:** Hyperactivity

**Story Profile:** Otto, a fidgety young car that has trouble paying attention in school, visits a special mechanic who prescribes a medicine to control his hyperactive behavior.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Russ and the Apple Tree Surprise*

**Author:** Janet Elizabeth Rickert

**Publisher:** Woodbine House, 5615 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; 1992

**ISBN #:** 1-890627-16-x

**Disability:** Down Syndrome

**Story Profile:** Russ, a five-year old boy with Down syndrome longs for a swing set. All his backyard has to offer is an apple tree. When his grandparents visit, Russ discovers the job of picking apples and making them into apple pie. He decides that his apple tree may be just as good as a swing set.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Russ and the Fire House*

**Author:** Janet Elizabeth Rickert

**Publisher:** Woodbine House, 5615 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; 1992

**ISBN #:** 1-890627-17-8

**Disability:** Down Syndrome

**Story Profile:** Russ is a young boy with Down syndrome whose everyday life experiences - not his disability - are the subject of books in this series. Russ goes "on-duty" with his Uncle, a fireman. Their shift includes a full inspection of the fire equipment, including keeping it clean. He also encounters Spark, the firehouse dog. At the end of this exciting day, all the firemen thank Russ for his hard work and invite him back for another visit.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Russell Is Extra Special: A Book About Autism for Children*

**Author:** Charles A. Amenta III, M.D.

**Publisher:** Brunner/Mazel, Publishers, 19 Union Square, New York, NY 10003; 1992

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-945354-43-6

**Disability:** Autism

**Story Profile:** This portrayal of an autistic boy and his family is designed to help children (ages 4 to 8) and their parents understand this serious developmental disorder.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Silent Observer*

**Author:** Christy MacKinnon

**Publisher:** Gallaudet University Press, Kendall Green, 800 Florida Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002-3695; 1993

**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-56368-022-X

**Disability:** Deafness

**Story Profile:** Christy MacKinnon is a young girl born in 1889 on a farm on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, Canada who became deaf after having whooping cough. She describes her life in adjusting to deafness, her relationships with family, and her problems trying to understand and be understood by hearing individuals.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Talking to Angels*

**Author:** Esther Watson

**Publisher:** Harcourt Brace, 525 B Street, Suite 1900, San Diego, CA 92101-4495; 1996

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-15-201077-7

**Disability:** Autism

**Story Profile:** Christa is an autistic girl who is described in this picture book by her sibling. Her behavior is described and illustrated in mixed media, including her favorite sounds and textures, occasional staring and fixation on stimuli, and interactions with others.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *There's a Little Bit of Me in Jamey*

**Author:** Diana M. Amadeo

**Publisher:** Albert Whitman & Co., 6340 Oakton Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053-2723

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-8075-7854-1

**Disability:** Leukemia

**Story Profile:** Brian struggles with the fact that his brother Jamey has leukemia and submits to a bone marrow test, which leads to a transplant.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *Thomas Alva Edison: Great Inventor*

**Author:** David A. Adler

**Publisher:** Holiday House

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-8234-0820-5

**Disability:** Deafness

**Story Profile:** Thomas Edison's life and his many inventions, despite his deafness, that shape our lives today are explored in this book.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *What Do You Mean I Have a Learning Disability?*

**Author:** Kathleen M. Dwyer

**Publisher:** Walker and Company, 720 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10019; 1991

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-8027-8102-0

**Disability:** Learning Disabilities

**Story Profile:** Ten-year-old Jimmy is having problems at school and believes he is stupid. After a parent-teacher conference, he is tested and found to have a learning disability.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *What It's Like to Be Me*

**Author:** Helen Exley

**Publisher:** Friendship Press, 1984

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-377-00144-9

**Disability:** Various Disabilities

**Story Profile:** Children from all over the world write about themselves and their disabilities. They tell us how they

see themselves and how they want to be seen. All of the illustrations are created by the children.

**Reading Level:** AC

**Title:** *You Can Call Me Willy. A Story for Children About AIDS*

**Author:** Joan C. Verniero

**Publisher:** Brunner/Mazel Publishers, 19 Union Square West, New York, NY 10003; 1995

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-945354-60-6

**Disability:** Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

**Story Profile:** Willy is an eight-year-old girl with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). Describing her life, she shares her hobbies, friends, family life, and aspects of her medical care and how it impacts her activities.

**Reading Level:** AC

[Back to All Readability Levels](#)

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**JE - Juvenile Easy Reader**

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**Title:** *Andy Finds a Turtle*

**Author:** Nan Holcomb

**Publisher:** Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1988

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-944727-02-6

**Disability:** Physical Disabilities

**Story Profile:** Andy enjoys physical therapy most of the time, but sometimes he doesn't. One day he's told he acts like a turtle with his legs and arms drawn in tight - but Andy doesn't know what a turtle is, so he goes in search of one. In this search he protects his baby sister from a strange invader and discovers something important about himself.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *Andy Opens Wide*

**Author:** Nan Holcomb

**Publisher:** Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1990

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-944727-06-9

**Disability:** Cerebral Palsy

**Story Profile:** Andy, a young boy with cerebral palsy, is frustrated by his inability to open his mouth wide enough for his mother to feed him easily.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *Anna Joins In*

**Author:** Katrin Arnold

**Publisher:** Abingdon Press, 201 Eighth Ave. South, Nashville, TN 37202

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-687-01530-8

**Disability:** Cystic Fibrosis

**Story Profile:** Anna is a young girl who has a difficult pattern to her days because she has cystic fibrosis.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *A Smile from Andy*

**Author:** Nan Holcomb

**Publisher:** Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1989

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-944727-04-2

**Disability:** Cerebral Palsy

**Story Profile:** Andy, who has cerebral palsy, is very shy. One day he meets a girl who helps him discover something that he can do to reach out to others in his own special way.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *Buddy's Shadow*

**Author:** Shirley Becker

**Publisher:** Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1991

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-944727-08-05

**Disability:** Down syndrome

**Story Profile:** Buddy, a five-year-old boy with Down syndrome, purchases a puppy.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *Can't You Be Still?*

**Author:** Sarah Yates

**Publisher:** Gima B. Publishing Inc., Box #713-740 Corydon Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3M 0Y1; 1992  
**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-9696477-0-0  
**Disability:** Cerebral Palsy  
**Story Profile:** Ann, who has cerebral palsy, attends school for the first time.  
**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *Charlsie's Chuckle*  
**Author:** Clara Widess Berkus  
**Publisher:** Woodbine House, 5615 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; 1992  
**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-933149-50-6  
**Disability:** Down syndrome  
**Story Profile:** Charlsie, a seven-year-old boy with Down syndrome, has an infectious laugh and enjoys bicycling around his neighborhood. On one such excursion he inadvertently wanders into a disputatious city council meeting and brings humor and harmony to the argumentative adults.  
**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *Cookie*  
**Author:** Linda Kneeland  
**Publisher:** Jason and Nordic, Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1989  
**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-944727-50  
**Disability:** Down Syndrome  
**Story Profile:** Molly, a four-year-old girl with Down syndrome, has difficulty talking. Her frustration with communication difficulties is relieved when someone comes to teach her sign language.  
**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *Fair and Square*  
**Author:** Nan Holcomb  
**Publisher:** Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1992  
**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-944727-10-7 hardback; ISBN-0-944727-09-3 paperback  
**Disability:** Physical Disabilities  
**Story Profile:** Kevin is confined to a wheelchair and has limited motor skills. A therapist introduces him to a computer game he can play and win, and shows him how to adapt other games for his use.  
**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *How About a Hug*  
**Author:** Nan Holcomb  
**Publisher:** Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1987  
**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-944727-01-8  
**Disability:** Down Syndrome  
**Story Profile:** A young girl with Down syndrome includes the details of a typical day in her life. While her daily activities require a degree of concentration and don't go perfectly smoothly, she is surrounded by helpful, supportive, and affectionate friends, family, and teachers, all of whom she agrees to hug when they offer.  
**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *I'm Like You, You're Like Me: A Child's Book about Understanding and Celebrating Each Other*  
**Author:** Cindy Gainer  
**Publisher:** Free Spirit Publishing, Inc., 400 First Avenue North, Suite 616, Minneapolis, MN 55401-1724; 1998  
**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-57542-039-2  
**Disability:** General Disabilities  
**Story Profile:** Children interact with people who are different from themselves; share, take turns, work and play together; discover and develop traits and skills that make them unique; and explore the many ways in which they are like and unlike others.  
**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *Joey and Sam*  
**Author:** Ilana Katz and Edward Ritvo  
**Publisher:** Real Life Story Books; 1993  
**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-882388-00-3  
**Disability:** Autism  
**Story Profile:** Sam is five and has autism, and Joey is his six-year-old brother. They describe an ordinary day at home and at school, showing some of the ways they are different and alike.  
**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *Kathy's Hats: A Story of Hope*

**Author:** Trudy Krisher

**Publisher:** Albert Whitman & Co., 6340 Oakton St., Morton Grove, IL 60053; 1992

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-8075-4116-8

**Disability:** Cancer

**Story Profile:** Kathy is a young girl who develops cancer and loses her hair as a result of chemotherapy.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *Kevin's Story*

**Author:** Dvora Levinson, Ph.D.

**Publisher:** IPI Publishing Ltd., 50 Prince Arthur Avenue, Suite 306, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 1B5 Canada; 1984

**ISBN #:** 0-920702-22-88

**Disability:** Reading Disability, Dyslexia

**Story Profile:** Kevin exhibits reading problems and is referred for testing with a psychologist who explains reading and learning disabilities to him and his family.

**Reading Level:** JE-JF

**Title:** *Little Tree: A Story for Children with Serious Medical Problems*

**Author:** Joyce C. Mills, Ph.D.

**Publisher:** Brunner/Mazel Publishers, 19 Union Sq. West, New York, NY 10003; 1992

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-94534-52-5 hardback; ISBN-0-945354-51-7 paperback

**Disability:** Chronic Illness

**Story Profile:** A small tree that loses some branches in a storm is used to illustrate the questions and feelings children may experience during and after medical problems.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *Luna and the Big Blur: A Story for Children Who Wear Glasses*

**Author:** Shirley Day

**Publisher:** Magination Press, 19 Union Square West, New York, NY 10003; 1995

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-945354-66-5

**Disability:** Visual Impairments

**Story Profile:** Luna resents the fact that she needs glasses to correct her nearsightedness.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *My Sister Is Different*

**Author:** Betty Ren Wright

**Publisher:** Steck-Vaughn Company, PO Box 26015 Austin, TX 78755; 1990

**ISBN #:** ISBN- 0-8172-1369-4

**Disability:** Mental Retardation

**Story Profile:** Carlo tells us what it is like to have an older sister with mental retardation.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *Naomi Knows It's Springtime*

**Author:** Virginia L. Kroll

**Publisher:** Boyds Mills Press Inc., 910 Church St., Honesdale, PA 18431; 1987

**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-56397-006-0

**Disability:** Blindness

**Story Profile:** Naomi tells us of the signs of spring through the mind of the blind.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *Patrick and Ima Lou*

**Author:** Nan Holcomb

**Publisher:** Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1994

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-944727-03-4

**Disability:** Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida

**Story Profile:** Three-year-old Patrick has cerebral palsy. He is having a hard time managing his new walker, but with the help of a new friend, Ima Lou, who is six and has spina bifida, they both discover something very important about each other.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *Sarah and Puffie: A Story for Children About Diabetes*

**Author:** Linnea Mulder

**Publisher:** Henry Holt



**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-94534-41-X hardback; ISBN-0-945354-42-8 paperback

**Disability:** Diabetes

**Story Profile:** Sarah feels resentful of the limitations the disease places on her activities until a stuffed animal (Puffle) comes to life and offers her encouraging rhymes about coping with diabetes.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *Sarah's Surprise*

**Author:** Nan Holcomb

**Publisher:** Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1990

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-944727-07-7

**Disability:** Articulation Impairments

**Story Profile:** Six-year-old Sarah, who is unable to talk, has used a picture board to communicate. She is now ready for an augmentative communication device. With the help of her speech therapist she gives everyone a surprise at her mother's birthday party.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *See You Tomorrow, Charles*

**Author:** Miriam Cohen

**Publisher:** Greenwillow

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-688-01804-1

**Disability:** Blindness

**Story Profile:** Charles is a first grader who is adjusting to school as a blind student.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *Shelley: The Hyperactive Turtle*

**Author:** Deborah M. Moss

**Publisher:** Woodbine House, 5615 Fisher's Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; 1988

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-933149-31-X

**Disability:** Hyperactivity

**Story Profile:** Shelley is a young hyperactive turtle who faces difficulties due to his inability to sit still and his frequent behavior problems, which lead to problems at school and on the bus, at home, and with friends, eventually leading to a poor self-image and depression. After a visit to a neurologist, he no longer thinks of himself as a bad turtle and his condition gradually improves.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *The Bob (Butterbean) Love Story*

**Author:** Terry Page and Bob Love

**Publisher:** Boo Books, Inc., PO Box 201128, Chicago, Illinois 60620-1128; 1995

**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-887864-40-7

**Disability:** Speech Impairments

**Story Profile:** Bob's autobiography tells his story: a famous basketball player with a speech impediment.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *The Night Search*

**Author:** Kate Chamberlin

**Publisher:** Richard S. McPhee, Jason & Nordic, Pubs., PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1997

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-944727-31-X

**Disability:** Blindness

**Story Profile:** Heather, who is blind, resists using her white cane until her puppy wanders off.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *There's a Blue Square on My Brother's School Bus*

**Author:** Sally Craymer

**Publisher:** The Wishing Room, Inc., PO Box 58, Studley, VA 23162

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-931563-12-7

**Disability:** Disabilities

**Story Profile:** This book discusses various types of disabilities. An emphasis is placed on what children with disabilities are able to do and ways in which they can participate in mainstream student life.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *Thumbs Up, Rico!*

**Author:** Maria Testa

**Publisher:** Albert Whitman & Co., 6340 Oakton Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053-2723; 1990

**ISBN #:** ISBN- 0-8075-7906-8

**Disability:** Down Syndrome

**Story Profile:** Rico is a boy with Down syndrome who loves basketball. The story describes his relationship with a neighborhood boy named Caesar, his older sister Nina, and his art class.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *We Can Do It!*

**Author:** Laura Dwight

**Publisher:** Checkerboard Press, Inc., 30 Vesey St., New York, NY 10007; 1992

**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-56288-301-1

**Disability:** Disabilities

**Story Profile:** The daily activities of five children who each have either cerebral palsy, blindness, spina bifida, or Down syndrome. Color photographs show the children engaging in their favorite pastimes at home and at school, with family members and with peers.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *We'll Paint the Octopus Red*

**Author:** Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen

**Publisher:** Woodbine House, Inc., 6510 Bells Mill Road, Bethesda, MD 20817; 1998

**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-890627-06-2

**Disability:** Down Syndrome

**Story Profile:** Ima is a little girl who has a new baby brother with Down syndrome.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *What About Me? When Brothers and Sisters Get Sick*

**Author:** Allan Peterkin, M.D.

**Publisher:** Brunner/Mazel Publishers, 19 Union Sq. West, New York, NY 10003; 1992

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-94534-48-7 hardback; ISBN-0-945354-49-5 paperback

**Disability:** Chronic Illness

**Story Profile:** Laura is a young girl attempting to cope with her brother Tom's chronic illness. The story describes her wide range of emotions including guilt, fear, anger, anxiety, and a general sense of disruption of normal family life.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *When I Grow Up*

**Author:** Candri Hodges

**Publisher:** Jason & Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1995

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-944727-26-3

**Disability:** Deafness

**Story Profile:** Jimmy is a deaf youth who takes a field trip and encounters various careers of deaf individuals.

**Reading Level:** JE

**Title:** *Where's Chimpy?*

**Author:** Berniece Rabe

**Publisher:** Albert Whitman & Co., 6340 Oakton Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053; 1988

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-8075-8928-4

**Disability:** Down Syndrome

**Story Profile:** Misty, a young girl with Down syndrome, misplaced her stuffed monkey and reviews her day with her father to try to remember where she left him.

**Reading Level:** JE

[Back to All Readability Levels](#)

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**JF - Juvenile Fiction**

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**Title:** *Adam and the Magic Marble*

**Author:** Adam and Carol Buehrens

**Publisher:** Hope Press, PO Box 188, Duarte, CA 91009-0188; 1991

**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-878267-30-2

**Disability:** Tourette Syndrome; Cerebral Palsy

**Story Profile:** Adam, Chris, and Matt are often harassed by bullies until they discover a magic marble.  
**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *Arlene On the Scene*

**Author:** Carol Liu and Marybeth Sidoti Caldarone

**Publisher:** Emerald Book Company, PO Box 91869, Austin, TX 78709; September 1, 2010

**ISBN #:** ISBN 978-1934572542

**Disability:** Charcot-Marie-Tooth Disease (CMT Disease)

**Story Profile:** A hopeful story about Arlene, a spirited fourth grader, who is determined not to allow her classmates to label her because of a congenital disability called Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *A Zebra Named Al*

**Author:** Wendy Isdell

**Publisher:** Free Spirit Publishing, 400 First Ave., North, Suite 616, Minneapolis, MN 55401; 1993

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-915793-58-X paperback; ISBN-0915793-59-8 manual

**Disability:** Learning Disability

**Story Profile:** Julie is an eighth grader who has trouble in math. Frustrated, she rests her head on her book... and is awakened by an Imaginary Number who suddenly appears in her room. When she follows the Number through a mysterious portal, she enters a strange land of mathematics, where she meets a zebra named Al.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *A Season of Secrets*

**Author:** Alison Cragin Herzig and Jane Lawrence Mali

**Publisher:** Little, Brown

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-316-35889-4

**Disability:** Epilepsy

**Story Profile:** Benji is a six-year-old who has been fainting at school and Brooke and Jason, his teenage sister and brother, wonder all summer long what is wrong with him.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *At the Back of the Woods*

**Author:** Claudia Mills

**Publisher:** Four Winds

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-07830-5

**Disability:** Mental Retardation

**Story Profile:** Davey is a young boy with mental retardation who is at a special care facility. His sister, Clarisse, and his parents come to visit him.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *Eagle Eyes: A Child's View of Attention Deficit Disorder*

**Author:** Jeanne Gehret, M.A.

**Publisher:** Verbal Images Press, 19 Fox Hill Dr., Fairport, NY 14450; 1991

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-9625136-4-4

**Disability:** Attention Deficit Disorder

**Story Profile:** Ben, a boy with attention deficit disorder, describes the frustrations and feelings associated with his initially unidentified syndrome.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *First Star I See*

**Author:** Jaye Andras Caffrey

**Publisher:** Verbal Images Press, 19 Fox Hill Drive, Fairport, NY 14450; 1997

**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-884281-17-6

**Disability:** Attention Deficit Disorder

**Story Profile:** Paige is a young girl with ADD who is trying to win a school writing contest.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *Here's What I Mean To Say...*

**Author:** Sarah Yates

**Publisher:** Glma B. Publishing Inc., Box #713-740 Corydon Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3M 0Y1; 1997

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-9696477-2-7

**Disability:** Cerebral Palsy

**Story Profile:** Ann (age nine) who has cerebral palsy, takes us through her struggles with everyday activities.  
**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *Hi, I'm Adam. A Child's Story of Tourette Syndrome*

**Author:** Adam Buehrens

**Publisher:** Hope Press, PO Box 188, Duarte, CA 91009-0188; 1991

**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-878267-29-9

**Disability:** Tourette Syndrome

**Story Profile:** Adam, a ten-year-old boy diagnosed with Tourette syndrome, wrote this book to help children with Tourette syndrome understand that they are not alone and that other children are experiencing similar difficulties.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *How Dyslexic Benny Became a Star: A Story of Hope for Dyslexic Children and Their Parents*

**Author:** Joe Griffith

**Publisher:** Yorktown Press, PO Box 795667, Dallas, TX 75379-5667; 1998

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-9569379-0-9

**Disability:** Dyslexia

**Story Profile:** Benny, who has dyslexia, struggles while his fifth-grade classmates' skills improve. He is suddenly terrified when he is called upon by his teacher to read aloud.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *Howie Helps Himself*

**Author:** Joan Fassler

**Publisher:** Albert Whitman & Co.; 1975

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-8075-3422-6

**Disability:** Cerebral Palsy

**Story Profile:** Howie has cerebral palsy. He gets around in a wheelchair, or rather, other people get him around in his wheelchair. More than anything, Howie wants to move that chair himself.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *How Many Days Until Tomorrow?*

**Author:** Caroline Janover

**Publisher:** Woodbine House

**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-890627-22-4

**Disability:** Dyslexia

**Story Profile:** Josh is a 12-year-old who has dyslexia. When he spends a summer on an island with his grandparents, he develops his strengths and discovers talents he did not know he had.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *I'm Joshua and "Yes I Can"*

**Author:** Joan Lenett Whinston

**Publisher:** Vantage Press, Inc., 516 West 34th St., New York, NY 10001; 1989

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-533-07959-4

**Disability:** Cerebral Palsy

**Story Profile:** Joshua, a young boy with cerebral palsy, describes his fears and insecurities about his disability on his first day in first grade.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *Josh: A Boy with Dyslexia*

**Author:** Caroline Janover

**Publisher:** Waterfront Books, 98 Brookes Ave., Burlington, VT 05401; 1988

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-914525-18-2 hardcover; ISBN-0-914515-10-7 paperback

**Disability:** Dyslexia

**Story Profile:** The life and adventures of Josh, who has dyslexia, as he moves to a new town and school.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *Learning Disabilities and the Don't Give Up Kid*

**Author:** Jeanne Gehret

**Publisher:** Verbal Images Press, 19 Fox Hill Drive, Fairport, NY 14450; 1990

**ISBN #:** ISBN-9625136-0-1

**Disability:** Dyslexia

**Story Profile:** A dyslexic boy wants to grow up to be an inventor like Thomas Edison but is constantly frustrated by problems at school. He switches into a small special education class of children with auditory processing

difficulties. The teacher gives him more personal attention, using an example from Edison's life to inspire him.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *Ludwig van Beethoven: Musical Pioneer*

**Author:** Carol Greene

**Publisher:** Childrens Pr.

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-516-04208-4

**Disability:** Deafness

**Story Profile:** The life of Beethoven is chronicled from his despair over his worsening deafness to his deepening commitment to his music.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *Margaret's Moves*

**Author:** Bernice Rabe

**Publisher:** Dutton

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-525-44271-5

**Disability:** Spina Bifida

**Story Profile:** Margaret is nine years old and has problems with the fact that she is in a wheelchair and blames it for slowing her down.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *My Friend Ben*

**Author:** Wanda Gilberts Kachur

**Publisher:** Peytral Publications, PO Box 1162, Suite 976, Minnetonka, MN 55345; 1997

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-9644271-4-1

**Disability:** Head Injuries

**Story Profile:** Narrated through the eyes of a classmate, this story tells of Ben, a boy with traumatic brain injury who is included in a general education, third-grade class.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *My Name Is Brain Brian*

**Author:** Jeanne Betancourt

**Publisher:** Scholastic Inc., 730 Broadway, New York, NY 10003; 1993

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-590-44921-4

**Disability:** Dyslexia

**Story Profile:** Brian, a sixth-grade boy is diagnosed as having dyslexia. His initial trepidation at being singled out for attention and diagnosis is gradually replaced by enthusiasm for learning new ways of learning.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *My Sister Annie*

**Author:** Bill Dodds

**Publisher:** Boyds Mills Press Inc., 910 Church St., Honesdale, PA 18431; 1989

**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-56397-114-3

**Disability:** Down Syndrome

**Story Profile:** Charlie is an 11-year-old boy who attempts to cope with growing up in the shadow of an older sister with Down syndrome.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *Rosie: A Visiting Dog's Story*

**Author:** Stephanie Calmenson

**Publisher:** Houghton Mifflin Co., 215 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10003; 1994

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-395-654477-7

**Disability:** Disabilities

**Story Profile:** Rosie, a Tibetan terrier who is trained to work as a visiting dog, provides therapeutic comfort and entertainment to children and adults who are hospitalized or in nursing homes.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *Sara's Secret*

**Author:** Suzanne Wanous

**Publisher:** Carolrhoda Books; 1995

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-87614-856-9

**Disability:** Cerebral Palsy

**Story Profile:** Justin is five with cerebral palsy and mental retardation. He "can't walk or talk or feed himself, or

even sit up," but still, he makes his sister Sara happy. Sara is not happy, however, when her teacher plans a unit on disabilities. Sara doesn't want her friends to know about her brother.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *The Best Fight*

**Author:** Anne Schlieper

**Publisher:** Albert Whitman & Company, 6340 Oakton Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053-2723; 1995

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-8075-0662-1

**Disability:** Reading Difficulties

**Story Profile:** Jamie is an adolescent boy who has learning disabilities that impair his reading. Frustration at his low reading ability combines with alienation due to his placement in special classes. His mixed emotions toward his teachers, friends, and family are explored.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *The Flying Fingers Club*

**Author:** Jean F. Andrews

**Publisher:** Kendall Green

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-930323-44-0

**Disability:** Deafness

**Story Profile:** Donald is a third grader who is bitter about repeating that grade when he meets Matt, who comes to class with an interpreter because he is deaf; they become fast friends.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *The Summer Kid*

**Author:** Myrna Neuringer Levy

**Publisher:** Second Story Press, 760 Bathurst Street, Toronto, Canada M5S 2R6; 1991

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-929005-20-1

**Disability:** Language Impairments

**Story Profile:** Karen, a ten-year-old girl who stays at a summer cottage with her grandmother encounters Tommy, a nine-year-old boy with a severe language disorder.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *Trouble with School: A Family Story About Learning Disabilities*

**Author:** Kathryn Boesel Dunn and Allison Boesel Dunn

**Publisher:** Woodbine House, 5615 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-933149-57-3

**Disability:** Learning Disabilities

**Story Profile:** A family's real-life experiences with learning disabilities follows Allison and her mother as each tells her side of the story of diagnosing and adjusting to Allison's special learning needs.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *Wrongway Applebaum*

**Author:** Marjorie Lewis

**Publisher:** Coward

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-698-20610-X

**Disability:** Learning Disabilities

**Story Profile:** Stanley is in fifth grade when his awkwardness and inability to tell left from right conflict with his family's interest in baseball.

**Reading Level:** JF

**Title:** *Zipper, the Kid with ADHD*

**Author:** Caroline Janover

**Publisher:** Woodbine House, Inc., 6510 Bells Mill Road, Bethesda, MD 20817; 1997

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-933149-95-6

**Disability:** Attention Deficit Disorder

**Story Profile:** Zachary (nicknamed Zipper), a fifth grader who has attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) has trouble concentrating and controlling himself until a retired jazz musician recognizes his talent, believes in him, and gives him the motivation to start trying to do better.

**Reading Level:** JF

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YA - Young Adult

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**Title:** *Annie's World*

**Author:** Nancy Smiler Levinson

**Publisher:** Gallaudet Univ. Press, 800 Florida Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002; 1990

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-930323-65-3

**Disability:** Deafness

**Story Profile:** The adjustment of 16-year-old Annie to her family move, which necessitates her becoming mainstreamed into a public high school.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Are You Alone on Purpose?*

**Author:** Nancy Werlin

**Publisher:** Houghton Mifflin Co., 222 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116-3764; 1994

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-395-67350-X

**Disability:** Autism, Physical Disabilities, Giftedness

**Story Profile:** This novel focuses on the lives of two Jewish families, one including an autistic boy and his academically gifted sister, the other featuring a bully who suffers a severe spine injury in a diving accident and is paralyzed from the waist down.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *A Thousand Lights*

**Author:** Hope Benton

**Publisher:** Open Minds, Inc., PO Box 21325, Columbus, OH 43221-0325; 1996

**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-888927-81-X; ISBN-1888927-28-3

**Disability:** Hearing Impairments

**Story Profile:** Two brothers, Will and Donnie, one with a severe hearing impairment, climb Mt. Fuji in Japan.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Best Friends*

**Author:** Hope Benton

**Publisher:** Open Minds, Inc., PO Box 21325, Columbus, OH 43221-0325; 1996

**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-888927-78-X; ISBN-1888927-25-9

**Disability:** Physical Disabilities

**Story Profile:** Kathryn, who uses a wheelchair, coaches her friend in coping with a broken leg.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Bus Girl*

**Author:** Gretchen Josephson

**Publisher:** Brookline Books, PO Box 1047, Cambridge, MA 02238; 1997

**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-57129-041-9

**Disability:** Down Syndrome

**Story Profile:** Gretchen, through poetry, describes her emotional development toward independence and adult relationships.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Don't Stop the Music*

**Author:** Robert Perske

**Publisher:** Abingdon Press, 201 Eighth Ave. South, Nashville, TN 37202; 1986

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-687-11060-2

**Disability:** Cerebral Palsy

**Story Profile:** Follow our teen hero and heroine (with cerebral palsy) through thrills, romance, and adventure all rolled into this "who-done-it."

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Down the Aisle*

**Author:** Hope Benton

**Publisher:** Open Minds, Inc., PO Box 21325, Columbus, OH 43221-0325; 1996

**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-888927-80-1; ISBN-1-888927-27-5

**Disability:** Physical Disabilities

**Story Profile:** The story of two sisters, one of whom has a physical disability (Kathryn), as they prepare to participate in a wedding.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Dyslexia My Life: One Man's Story of His Life with a Learning Disability*

**Author:** Girard J. Sagmiller

**Publisher:** DML, PO Box 537, Smithville, MO 64089-0537; 1995

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-9643087-1-1

**Disability:** Dyslexia

**Story Profile:** Girard's autobiography dealing with dyslexia chronicles his struggles to overcome the ignorance and prejudice of his friends, family, and society in order to succeed in school, business, and life.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Emily Good as Gold*

**Author:** Susan Goldman Rubin

**Publisher:** Harcourt Brace & Company, 1250 Sixth Ave., San Diego, CA 92101; 1993

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-15-276632-4 hardback; ISBN-0-15-276633-2 paperback

**Disability:** Mental Retardation

**Story Profile:** Emily, a 13-year-old girl with mental retardation, experiences adolescence.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Emily in Love*

**Author:** Susan Goldman Rubin

**Publisher:** Harcourt Brace & Co., 525 B Street, San Diego, CA 92101; 1997

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-15-200961-2

**Disability:** Developmental Delays

**Story Profile:** Emily is developmentally delayed. She is included in a general education high school and has to deal with her feelings of confusion, frustration, and anger towards her parents for protecting her too much, and at herself for being unable to understand and accomplish everything she wants.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Extraordinary People with Disabilities*

**Author:** Deborah Kent and Kathryn A. Quinlan

**Publisher:** Children's Press, 1996

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-516-26074-X

**Disability:** Various Disabilities

**Story Profile:** Nearly 50 men and women with mental or physical disabilities are profiled in this collection including well-known figures such as: Thomas Edison, Ludwig van Beethoven, Harriet Tubman, Tom Cruise, Chris Burke, and Robert Dole. In addition to those mentioned are: a champion wheelchair marathoner with spina bifida, a partially blind ballet dancer, a photographer with polio, a deaf author and book reviewer, an Indian chief with muscular dystrophy, and an activist and psychotherapist with cerebral palsy.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Franklin D. Roosevelt: Gallant President*

**Author:** Barbara Feinberg

**Publisher:** Lothrop, Lee & Shepard

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-688-00434-2

**Disability:** Poliomyelitis

**Story Profile:** A biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Idea Man*

**Author:** Karen Melberg Schwier

**Publisher:** Diverse City Press, 1997

**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-896230-09-1

**Disability:** Down Syndrome

**Story Profile:** Erin is angry when her parents leave her overnight with family friends. The family's older son, Jim, has Down syndrome and Erin doesn't want to be seen with him because he's known as the Dork, but kids from school witness Jim giving her a hug. She realizes she misjudged him after he helps her with a homework assignment.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Iron Horse: Lou Gehrig in His Time*

**Author:** Ray Robinson

**Publisher:** Norton

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-393-02857-7

**Disability:** Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis



**Story Profile:** Lou Gehrig, nicknamed the Iron Horse for the number of consecutive games he played for the New York Yankees baseball team, died in 1941 after a two-year struggle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Probably Still Nick Swansen*

**Author:** Virginia Euwer Wolff

**Publisher:** Holt

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-8050-0701-6

**Disability:** Learning Disabilities

**Story Profile:** Nick is 16 and in special ed classes with "Down" kids and some "hyperactive" students, too. He can't figure out if there's a word for his placement in special ed.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Reach for the Moon*

**Author:** Samantha Abeel

**Publisher:** Pfeifer-Hamilton Publishers, 210 West Michigan, Duluth, MN 55802; 1997

**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-57025-013-8

**Disability:** Learning Disabilities

**Story Profile:** Samantha, a 13-year-old girl with a learning disability in understanding mathematical concepts, provides a collection of illustrated poems and stories. She writes about her difficulties in middle school, including coping with her disability and the accompanying emotional challenges and the encouragement received by her English teacher to develop her writing talent.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Retarded Isn't Stupid Mom!*

**Author:** Sandra Z. Kaufman

**Publisher:** Brookes Publishing Co., PO Box 10624, Baltimore, MD 21285-0624; 1988

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-933716-96-6

**Disability:** Mild Mental Retardation

**Story Profile:** The mother of a child diagnosed as mildly retarded at the age of two recounts experiences of the child's growing up into an adult.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Stevie Wonder*

**Author:** John Swenson

**Publisher:** Harper & Row

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-06-097067-7

**Disability:** Blindness

**Story Profile:** Stevie Wonder's life from his birth in Saginaw, Michigan, in 1950, through his rapid rise as a Motown artist in the early 1960s and up to his present-day work.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Tell Me How the Wind Sounds*

**Author:** Leslie D. Guccione

**Publisher:** Scholastic

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-590-42615-X

**Disability:** Deafness

**Story Profile:** Amanda is 15 when she meets Jake on Clark's Island. She is angered at every encounter with him until he tells her he's deaf.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *The Nautilus*

**Author:** Wanda Gilberts Kachur

**Publisher:** Peytral Publications, PO Box 1162, Suite 976, Minnetonka, MN 55345; 1997

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-9644271-5-X

**Disability:** Physical Disabilities

**Story Profile:** Kathryn is an adolescent who longs to be a professional ballet dancer but is seriously injured in a car accident and must face her disabilities.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *The Worst Speller in Jr. High*

**Author:** Caroline Janover

**Publisher:** Free Spirit Publishing, 400 First Avenue, North, Suite 616,

Minneapolis, MN 55401-1730; 1995

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-915793-76-8

**Disability:** Dyslexia

**Story Profile:** Katie Kelso, an adolescent girl with dyslexia, describes her struggles with issues of peer acceptance, dating, and academic achievement, all of which are complicated by her dyslexia.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Turning Around the Upside-Down Kids: Helping Dyslexic Kids Overcome Their Disorder*

**Author:** Harold Levinson and Addie Meyer Sanders

**Publisher:** M. Evans and Company, Inc., 216 East 49th Street, New York, NY 10017; 1992

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-87131-700-1

**Disability:** Dyslexia

**Story Profile:** Continuing with the eight characters from *The Upside-Down Kids*, these students and their compassionate teacher Ms. Jensen, examine the various successful treatments for each child's unique symptoms in a way that is both comprehensive and simple to understand.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Views from Our Shoes: Growing Up with a Brother or Sister with Special Needs*

**Author:** Donald Meyer, Ed.

**Publisher:** Woodbine House, Inc., 6510 Bells Mill Rd., Bethesda, MD 20817; 1997

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-933149-98-0

**Disability:** Disabilities

**Story Profile:** Forty-five siblings share their experiences. The children whose essays are featured range in age from four to 18 with a variety of special needs, including autism, cerebral palsy, developmental delays, attention deficit disorder, hydrocephalus, visual and hearing impairments, Down syndrome, and Tourette syndrome.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Waiting for Johnny Miracle*

**Author:** Alice Hendricks Bach

**Publisher:** Harper and Row

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-06-020348-X

**Disability:** Cancer

**Story Profile:** Theo and Becky are 17-year-old twins when they find out Becky has a malignant tumor in her right thigh.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Whoa, Nellie!*

**Author:** Hope Benton

**Publisher:** Open Minds, Inc., PO Box 21325, Columbus, OH 43221-0325; 1996

**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-888927-79-8; ISBN-1-888927-26-7

**Disability:** Physical Disabilities

**Story Profile:** A story of a young girl, Kathryn, who happens to have a physical disability and uses a wheelchair, her friends, and their experiences at summer camp as they search for a favorite horse.

**Reading Level:** YA

**Title:** *Wish on a Unicorn*

**Author:** Karen Hesse

**Publisher:** Penguin Books, 375 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014; 1991

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-14-034935-9

**Disability:** Mental Retardation

**Story Profile:** A sixth-grade girl, Mags, lives in a trailer and has a younger sister named Hannie with mental retardation. Hannie finds an old stuffed unicorn and believes it is magical when strange things start to happen.

**Reading Level:** YA

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**A - Adult**

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**Title:** *The Doctor He Begged to Be*

**Author:** A. McDonald Vaz

**Publisher:** Dorrance Publishing Co., Inc., 643 Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222; 1996

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-8059-3815-X

**Disability:** Dyslexia

**Story Profile:** Garth Vaz is a Jamaican man with dyslexia who wanted to be a physician. His brother tells of his struggles during his two attempts at the University of Florida College of Medicine, and the challenges he faced including neurological, physical, financial, marital, and racial obstacles.

**Reading Level:** A

**Title:** *The Me in the Mirror*

**Author:** Connie Panzarino

**Publisher:** Seal Press, 3131 Western Avenue, Suite 410, Seattle, WA 98121-1028; 1994

**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-878067-45-1

**Disability:** Physical Disabilities

**Story Profile:** Connie Panzarino is a woman with Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type III. She tells of her struggles and triumphs, relationships with family, her turn to lesbianism, and her pioneering work in the disability rights movement.

**Reading Level:** A

**Title:** *The Silents*

**Author:** Charlotte Abrams

**Publisher:** Gallaudet University Press, 800 Florida Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002-3695; 1996

**ISBN #:** ISBN-1-56368-055-6

**Disability:** Deafness

**Story Profile:** Charlotte writes her autobiography about day-to-day life with her deaf parents. She describes the communication challenges they faced as a Jewish family overcoming the Depression and the hardships of World War II, as well as the additional challenge and fear the mother faced when she found out she was going blind.

**Reading Level:** A

**Title:** *Under the Eye of the Clock: The Life Story of Christopher Nolan*

**Author:** Christopher Nolan

**Publisher:** St. Martins Press, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010; 1988

**ISBN #:** ISBN-0-312-01266-7

**Disability:** Cerebral Palsy

**Story Profile:** The author, a 21-year-old Irishman severely disabled by cerebral palsy, tells the story of his childhood and how he must cope with his handicap, revealing the thoughts and realities of his world.

**Reading Level:** A

[Back to All Readability Levels](#)



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Itâ€™s Andyâ€™s special talent for spinning his Frisbee combined with a new classmateâ€™s curiosity about his behavior that sets this story in motion. Rosie, the watchful and protective sister, supplies background on Andy and autism, as well as a siblingâ€™s perspective. Written and Illustrated by Mary Thompson Mary Thompson, a botanical illustrator and artist, is the mother of four children, including one with disabilities. She is also the author of Granâ€™s Bees and the illustrator of The Real Johnny Appleseed, both books for young readers. Reviews. There are no reviews yet. Peer Training: Andy and His Yellow Frisbee Appropriate for children: grades K â€“ 3. Materials needed: o. o. o. Andy and His Yellow Frisbee book Screening Poster by HANDS in Autism Paper and coloring utensils. HANDS in Autism. Goals for this lesson: o To understand basics about autism. o To help peers gain awareness of others with autism. o To develop ways to understand how to interact with people with autism. Time required for this lesson: 30 â€“ 45 minutes.