# 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.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title: Andy and His Yellow Frisbee</th>
<th>Back to All Readability Levels</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Author:</strong> Mary Thompson</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Publisher:</strong> Woodbine House, 6510 Bells Mill Road, Bethesda, MD 20817; 1996</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Disability:</strong> Autism</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Story Profile:</strong> 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.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading Level:</strong> AC</td>
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<tr>
<th>Title: A Picture Book of Helen Keller</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Author:</strong> David A. Adler</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Publisher:</strong> Holiday House</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Disability:</strong> Deaf-Blind</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Story Profile:</strong> 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.</td>
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<td><strong>Reading Level:</strong> AC</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title: Armann and Gentle</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Author:</strong> Kristin Steinsdottir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publisher:</strong> Stuttering Foundation of America, PO Box 11749, Memphis, TN 38111-0749; 1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disability:</strong> Stuttering</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Story Profile:</strong> A six-year-old boy, Armann, stutters when he is frustrated.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reading Level:</strong> AC</td>
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<tr>
<th>Title: A Very Special Friend</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Author:</strong> Dorothy Hoffman Levi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publisher:</strong> Gallaudet University Press, Kendall Green, 800 Florida Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002-3695; 1989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Disability:</strong> Deafness</td>
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Story Profile: Frannie, a lonely little girl, discovers a new friend when a deaf girl her age moves in next door.

Title: A Very Special Sister
Author: Dorothy Hoffman Levi
Publisher: Gallaudet University Press, Kendall Green, 800 Florida Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002-3695; 1992
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.

Title: Be Good to Eddie Lee
Author: Virginia Filling
Publisher: Philomel Books, Putnam & Grosset Group, 200 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016
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.

Title: Big Brother Dustin
Author: Alden R. Carter
Publisher: Albert Whitman & Co., 6340 Oakton Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053-2723; 1997
Disability: Down Syndrome
Story Profile: Dustin, a young boy with Down syndrome, learns that his parents are expecting a baby.

Title: Cat's Got Your Tongue?
Author: Charles E. Schaefer, Ph.D.
Publisher: Brunner/Mazel, Publishers, 19 Union Square, New York, NY 10003; 1992
Disability: Communication Disorders, Mutism
Story Profile: Anna, a kindergartner, is diagnosed as an electively mute child.

Title: Eukee: The Jumpy Jumpy Elephant
Author: Clifford L. Corman and Esther Trevino
Publisher: Specialty Press; 1995
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.

Title: Clover's Secret
Author: Christine M. Winn and David Walsh, Ph.D.
Publisher: Fairview Press, 2450 Riverside Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55454; 1996
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.

Title: Danny and the Merry-Go-Round
Author: Nan Holcomb
Publisher: Jason and Nordic, Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1987
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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  
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  
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  
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  
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  
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  
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  
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
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

JE - Juvenile Easy Reader

Title: Andy Finds a Turtle
Author: Nan Holcomb
Publisher: Jason and Nordic Publishers, PO Box 441, Hollidaysburg, PA 16648; 1988
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
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
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
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
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
**Title:** Charlsie's Chuckle  
**Author:** Clara Widess Berkus  
**Publisher:** Woodbine House, 5615 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; 1992  
**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  
**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  
**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  
**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  
**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:** Illana Katz and Edward Ritvo  
**Publisher:** Real Life Story Books; 1993  
**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  
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  
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  
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  
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  
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  
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 Puffle: A Story for Children About Diabetes  
Author: Linnea Mulder  
Publisher: Henry Holt
**Sarah's Surprise**

**Author:** Nan Holcomb

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


**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

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**See You Tomorrow, Charles**

**Author:** Miriam Cohen

**Publisher:** Greenwillow


**Disability:** Blindness

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

**Reading Level:** JE

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**Shelley: The Hyperactive Turtle**

**Author:** Deborah M. Moss

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


**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

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**The Bob (Butterbean) Love Story**

**Author:** Terry Page and Bob Love

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


**Disability:** Speech Impairments

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

**Reading Level:** JE

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**The Night Search**

**Author:** Kate Chamberlin

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


**Disability:** Blindness

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

**Reading Level:** JE

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**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


**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

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**Thumbs Up, Rico!**

**Author:** Maria Tesia
Publishers: Albert Whitman & Co., 6340 Oakton Street, Morton Grove, IL 60053-2723; 1990
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
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
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
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
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
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

JF - Juvenile Fiction Back to All Readability Levels

Title: Adam and the Magic Marble
Author: Adam and Carol Buehrens
Publisher: Hope Press, PO Box 188, Duarte, CA 91009-0188; 1991
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
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
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
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
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
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
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: Glima B. Publishing Inc., Box #713-740 Corydon Ave., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3M 0Y1; 1997
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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.  
**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  
**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  
**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  
**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  
**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  
**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  
**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  
**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  
**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  
**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  
**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  
**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

Title: *Annie's World*
Author: Nancy Smiler Levinson
Publisher: Gallaudet Univ. Press, 800 Florida Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002; 1990
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
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
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
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
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
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
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  
**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  
**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  
**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  
**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  
**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  
**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
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
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
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
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
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
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,
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
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
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
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
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
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

Title: The Doctor He Begged to Be
Author: A. McDonald Vaz
Publisher: Dorrance Publishing Co., Inc., 643 Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222; 1996

Back to All Readability Levels
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
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
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
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
It’s Andy’s special talent for spinning his Frisbee combined with a new classmate’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 sibling’s perspective. Written and Illustrated by Mary Thompson, a botanical illustrator and artist, is the mother of four children, including one with disabilities. She is also the author of Gran’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-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.