BOOKS THAT PORTRAY CHARACTERS WITH DISABILITIES

Compiled by

Kathy Young

(www.SmartOnTheInside.com)

Learning Disabilities and/or Attention Issues

• Sahara Special by Esme Raji Codell (Grades 3-6)
  Do Bananas Chew Gum? by Jamie Gilson (ages 8+)
  Percy Jackson Series by Rick Riordan / dyslexia and ADHD (IL 5-8)
  My Name is Brian Brain by Jeanne Betancourt / dyslexia (ages 8+)
  Tom's Special Talent by Kate Gaynor / dyslexia

• Okay for Now by Gary Schmidt (Grades 5+) / reading difficulties
  The Art of Miss Chew by Patricia Polacco (3-6)
  Junkyard Wonders by Patricia Polacco (ages 6+) / learning disabilities
  Two-minute Drill: A Comeback Kids Novel by Mike Lupica (ages 8+)
  Yellow Bird and Me by Joyce Hansen (IL 5-8) / reading difficulties
  Yours Turly, Shirley by Ann M. Martin (ages 8+) / dyslexia
  Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea (ages 9+) / various
  There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom by Louis Sachar (IL 3-6) / ADHD
  After Ever After by Jordan Sonnenblick / chemo-induced learning difficulties

• Waiting for Normal by Leslie Donner
  Dying to Know You by Aiden Chambers / dyslexia
  Flight by Elizabeth Stow Ellison (grades 4-8) / dyslexia
  Bluefish by Pat Schmatz (ages 12+) / reading difficulties
  May B. by Caroline Starr Rose / dyslexia in 19th century Kansas (in verse) (ages 9+)
Trout and Me by Susan Shreve (grades 5-8) /ADD

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

Stiks and Stoans by Andrew Mathews/ dyslexia

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

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

Secrets at Silver Spires by Ann Bryant learning disabilities

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

Wall of Words by Tim Kennemore /dyslexia

How to Write Really Badly by Anne Fine

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

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

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

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

Thank You, Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco (grades K-3) /dyslexia

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eleven by Patricia Riley Giff (Grades 3-6)
Last to Finish: A Story About the Smartest Boy in Math Class by Barbara Esham (grades K-3) math/ LD

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

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

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

The Safe Place by Tehila Peterseil /ADD and dyslexia

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

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

Reach for the Moon by Samantha Abeel/learning disabilities-poetry

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

Just One Friend by Hall/learning disabilitiesA

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

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

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

Spaceman by Cutler (Grades 5-8)

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

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

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

Learning Disabilities-Biography

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

Building Wings-How I Made It Through School by Don Johnston and Jerry Stemach/LD

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

Firetalking by Patricia Polacco/dyslexia

The Teacher Who Couldn’t Read by John Corcoran (Grades 11+)/dyslexia
Avi by Louis Markham/dysgraphia

Learning Outside the Lines by Jonathan Mooney and David Cole/dyslexia and ADHD

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

Yes I Can-Struggles From Childhood to the NFL by Neil Smith with Brad Hamann-dyslexia

Chuck Close, Up Close by Jan Greenberg (ages 8+)/ learning disabilities

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

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

Nonfiction

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

A Smile as Big as the Moon by Mike Kersjes –SPED class goes to NASA

When Learning is Tough: Kids Talk About Their Learning Disabilities by Roby

Succeeding With LD: 20 True Stories About Real People With LD by Lauren

Autism/Asperger’s Syndrome

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

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

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

Colin Fisher by Miller and Stentz

• Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine (Grades 5+)/ Asperber's syndrome

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

Love Anthony by Lisa Genova/ autism

Probably Still Nick Swansen by Virginia Euwer Wolff (ages 12+)

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd (ages 9+)

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

Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes
Memories of an Imaginary Friend by Matthew Dicks (adult)

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

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

Reinvention of Edison Thomas by Jacqueline Houtman (grades 5-8)/ Asperger’s syndrome

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

Apples for Cheyenne by Gerlack/autism

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

Understanding Sam by Niekirk and Venter/Asperger’s syndrome

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

**Physical Challenges**

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

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

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

Going Bovine by Libba Bray (mad cow disease). YA

Gringolandia: A Novel by Lyn Miller-Lachmann

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

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

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

Head Case by Aronson (ages 12+)/quadraplegic

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

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

Stakeout by Bonnie J. Doerr (Grades 5+) spina bifada
**Cerebral Palsy**

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

*Stoner & Spaz* by Koertge, R. (Grades 10+)

*Petey* by Mikaelsen, B. (2000) (Grades 6+)/cerebral palsy

*Small Steps* by Sachar, L. (Grades 5-8)/cerebral palsy.

*The Alfred Summer* by Slepian, J. (Grades 5+)/cerebral palsy and intellectual disability

*Stuck in Neutral* by Trueman, T. / severe cerebral palsy

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

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

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

**Intellectual Disabilities**

*Crazy Lady* by Conly, J.L. (Grades 5-9)

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

*Keeping Up With Roo* by Sharlee Glenn/intellectual disabilities

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

*Tru Confessions* by Janet Tashijiar/intellectual disabilities

*Me and Rupert Goody* by Barbara O’Connor/intellectual disabilities

**Hearing Impairments**

*Can You Feel the Thunder?* by McElfresh, L. E. /deaf and blind sister

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

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

*Can You Feel the Thunder?* by Lynn E. McElfresh/deaf and blind sister

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

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

*Hollow Earth* by John and Carole Barrowman (Grades 4+) deaf
**Visual Impairments**

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

**Gentle's Holler: A Novel** by Madden, K./blind sister

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

**Keep Your Ear on the Ball** by Genevieve Petrillo /blind

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

**Knots on a Counting Rope** by Martin and Archambault/blindness

**Pirate of Kindergarten** by George Lyan/vision disorder

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

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

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

**Other**

**Forgotten** by Cat Patrick /Memory

**Unforgettable** by Loretta Ellsworth (Grades 6+)/memory

**The Spaghetti Detectives** by Andreas Steinhöfel (Grade 3+)

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

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

**Darker Still** by Hieber /selective mute

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

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

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

**Words in the Dust** by Trent Reedy (Grades 7-8)/cleft palate
The Fault in Our Stars by John Green (Grades 9-12)/cancer

Inside Out by Trueman/schizophrenia

Blabber Mouth by Geitzman/speech issues

Jerk, California by Friesen/Tourette’s Syndrome

Trigger by Vaught/brain damage

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

Tending to Grace by Fusco/stuttering

Still Alice by Lisa Genova /Alzheimer's

Left Neglected by Lisa Genova/ traumatic brain injury

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

Schneider Family Book Awards 2013

Back to Front and Upside Down by Alexander (Gr. 1-5)/writing difficulty

A Dog Called Homeless by Leonard/speech issues and deaf/blind

Somebody, Please Tell Me Who I Am by Mazer and Lerangisand/traumatic brain injury and autism

Dolly Gray Award Winners 2012

• Mockingbird by Erskine/Asperger’s Syndrome

Waiting for No One by Beverley Brenna /Asperger’s Syndrome

My Brother Charlie by Holly Peete and Ryan Peete/Autism

Just Because by Rebecca Elliott/Multiple Disabilities

LEARNING DISABILITIES--Teacher/Parent Resources

www.SmartOnTheInside.com

• Former or current selections from the Rebecca Caudill List