Books Depicting Differing Abilities

Akron-Summit County Public Library

Picture books:



Cotterill, Samantha. **It was Supposed to be Sunny**, 2021. JE COTTERILL Laila's birthday party, perfectly planned with her autism in mind, goes awry due to a change in weather and an accident with her cake, but with the help of her mom and her service dog, Laila knows she can handle this.



Mangal, Melina. **Jayden's Impossible Garden**, 2021. JE MANGAL Nine-year-old Jayden loves the outdoors, but his mother is nervous about him playing in their neighborhood. With the help of his neighbor Mr. Curtis, who uses a wheelchair, can Jayden help Mama see that nature and beauty are all around?



Napoli, Donna Jo. **Hands & Hearts** by Donna Jo Napoli, 2014. JE NAPOLI Highlights the bond between a mother and her child while providing a gentle introduction to sign language during their day at the beach.

Fiction:



Bowling, Dusti. Aven Green Sleuthing Machine, 2021. JFIC BOWLING

Third-grader Aven Green has been solving mysteries for a whole month, cracking such cases as The Mystery of the Cranky Mom. But can this perceptive detective solve two cases at the same time? First her teacher's lunch bag disappears. Then Aven's great-grandma's dog goes missing. Fortunately, since Aven was born without arms, all the "arm" cells went to her super-powered brain instead. (That's her theory.)



LeZotte, Ann Clare. Show Me a Sign, 2020. JFIC LEZOTTE

It is 1805 and Mary Lambert has always felt safe among the deaf community of Chilmark on Martha's Vineyard where practically everyone communicates in a shared sign language, but a "scientist" determined to discover the origins of the islands' widespread deafness has decided she makes the perfect "live specimen"--& kidnapped her.



Lloyd, Natalie. Hummingbird, 2022, JFIC LLOYD

When twelve-year-old Olive, who suffers from brittle bone disease and has been homeschooled all her life, finally attends school in person she soon discovers fitting in is not that easy, but if she can find the magical wish-granting hummingbird that supposedly lives nearby, and prove herself worthy, maybe her deepest wish will be granted.



Roe, Monica. Air, 2022, JFIC ROE

Emelyn Ethrige,, who is 12 ½ and lives with her father in South Carolina, makes custom wheelchair bags trying to earn enough money to buy a serious set of wheels for the wheelchair motocross. She has been in a wheelchair all her life and is just fine getting around without help, but it seems that since her mother was killed in an accident everyone has started treating her differently: urging caution and trying to "help." For an

independently-minded girl who loves speed and big air tricks, it is frustrating--so Emelyn and her best friends come up with a plan to change their minds.

Non-fiction and Biographies:



Clark, Zion. Zion Unmatched, 2021, JBIO CLARK, Z C596z

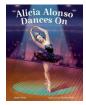
This photographic essay showcases Zion Clark's ferocious athleticism and undaunted spirit. With advice that have motivated Zion toward excellence and passages from Zion himself, this book explores Zion's journey from a childhood lost in the foster care system to his hard-fought rise as a high school wrestler to his current rigorous training to prepare as an elite athlete on the world stage.



Cocca-Leffler, Maryann. We want to go to School! : The Fight for Disability Rights, 2021. JNF 344.7307 C659w

There was a time in the United States when children with disabilities weren't allowed to go to public school. But in 1971, seven kids and their families wanted to do something about it. They knew that every child had a right to an equal education, so they

went to court to fight for that right. The case Mills v. Board of Education of the District of Columbia led to laws ensuring children with disabilities would receive a free public education. Janine Leffler, one of the millions of kids who attended school as a result of these laws, tells the true story of this landmark case.



Viña, Rose. Alicia Alonso Dances On, 2021. JBIO ALONSO, A V766a

As a young girl in Cuba, Alicia Alonso practiced ballet in tennis shoes. Within a few years, she was in New York City, with a promising ballet career. But her eyesight began to fail. When Alicia needed surgeries to save her vision, dancing was impossible, but she found the strength and determination to return to the stage and become a prima ballerina. This is the true story of a woman who overcame her challenges, mastered her art, and

inspired others to dance and dream.



Wolfe, Helen. **Unstoppable: Women with Disabilities**, 2021. JNF 362.4082 W855u Ten women who face physical and mental health challenges, some from birth and some who became disabled later in life. But they all share the determination to make the world a better place, not just for themselves but for those who will come after them. Their fields are as diverse as elite sport, neurosurgery, architecture, and environmental activism, and

while some have devoted themselves to disability policy, others prefer to lead by example. In either case they have proved themselves to be unstoppable.