



Books Depicting Differing Abilities

Picture books:



Hourigan, Erin. In the Blue, 2022. JE Hourigan

As one father embarks on an emotional journey, his daughter will navigate life lived in and around his depression. Most days the sun won't be able to peek through the clouds. But with each new wave of change, love will always bond them together.



Pla, Sally J. Benji, the Bad Day, and Me, 2018. JE Pla

Sammy is having a very bad day at school and at home. His autistic brother, Benji is having a bad day too. On days like this, Benji has a special play-box where he goes to feel cozy and safe, but Sammy doesn't have a special place. Benji finds a way to make Sammy better.



Sotomayor, Sonia. Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You, 2019. JE Sotomayor Sonia and her friends plant a garden, and each one contributes in his or her own special way, in a book that celebrates the many differences among humans. In this warm and inclusive story by U.S. Supreme Justice Sonia Sotomayor, inspired by her own childhood diagnosis of diabetes, readers join along as differently abled kids use their strengths to work together and learn about each other.

Fiction:



Harrington, C. C. Wildoak, 2022. JFIC Harrington

Twelve-year-old Maggie's stutter causes her much heartache and only her menagerie of pets, whom she can speak with fluidly, provide her comfort, but when she finds Rumpus, an abandoned snow leopard, in a forest in Cornwall, their chance encounter will change their lives forever.



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.



Myers, Alison Green. A Bird Will Soar, 2021. JFIC Myers

After a tornado, Axel, an autistic boy who loves birds, finds an injured eaglet, and helps to rescue it--and also helps to resolve the problems in his broken family, and draw his father back home.



Reynolds, Jason. Stuntboy, in the meantime, 2021. JFIC Reynolds

Portico Reeves' secret identity as Stuntboy allows him to use his superpower to keep everybody safe, but when his superhero parents start fighting a lot, he starts feeling anxious, and he feels the responsibility to save them.

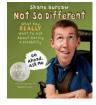
Graphic Novel:



Jamieson, Victoria. When Stars are Scattered, 2020. JGN When

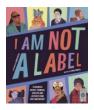
Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother in this intimate and touching portrayal of family and daily life in a refugee camp.

Non-fiction and Biographies:



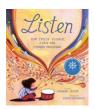
Burcaw, Shane. Not So Different: what you really want to ask about having a disability, 2017. JNF 362.4309 B947n

A picture book answering the questions young children ask Shane Burcaw about his wheelchair and life with Spinal Muscular Atrophy with equal parts optimism, humor, and empathy.



Burnell, Cerrie. I am Not a Label: 34 disabled artists, thinkers, athletes and activists from past and present, 2020. JNF 920.0087 B963i

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.



Stocker, Shannon. Listen: how Evelyn Glennie, a deaf girl, changed percussion, 2022. JBIO Glennie

From the moment Evelyn Glennie heard her first note, music held her heart. She played the piano by ear at age eight, and the clarinet by age ten. But soon, the nerves in her ears began to deteriorate, and Evelyn was told that, as a deaf girl, she could never be a musician. What sounds Evelyn couldn't hear with her ears, though, she could *feel* resonate through her body as if she, herself, were a drum. Evelyn Glennie had learned how to listen in a new way. And soon, the world was listening too.



Thompson, Laurie Ann. Emmanuel's Dream: the true story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah, 2015. JBIO Yeboah

Born in Ghana, West Africa, with one deformed leg, he was dismissed by most people-but not by his mother, who taught him to reach for his dreams. As a boy, Emmanuel hopped to school more than two miles each way, learned to play soccer, left home at age thirteen to provide for his family, and, eventually, became a cyclist. He rode an astonishing four hundred miles across Ghana in 2001, spreading his powerful message: disability is not inability. 11/23