Children’s Books About Disability
A Bibliography-Teacher’s Guide

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Updated September 16, 2005
Forward

This bibliography was compiled as a resource for teachers and other interested parties searching for children’s literature which addresses disabilities. The Division of Disability Services does not endorse any of the material contained herein and provides this information resource for information purposes only.
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NINE WAYS TO EVALUATE CHILDREN'S BOOKS
Bibliography, Children Books about Disability

Books with Listings of Children’s Disability Books


Summary: An Annotated Bibliography of Nonfiction for Children and Teenagers.


Summary: This book includes several listings under the categories of "Diseases and Other illnesses" and "Physical and Mental Disabilities."


Summary: This book is organized by topic, many of which are disability-related, such as "allergies," "asthma," "ADD," and so on.
Disability Listing:

**Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)**


**Summary:** A little boy with AIDS turns to God to help him cope with the pain, fear, and loneliness that surround him.


**Summary:** Willy is an 8-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. (Note: This was the only children's book selected by ABC's "Good Morning America" for its Millennium Time Capsule, buried at Times Square.)

**Amputee and Congenital Limb Malformation**


**Summary:** A boy, born without a lower left arm, stands up for a quiet classmate and wins over the class bully. The three become good friends.


**Summary:** A young girl recounts the process of obtaining and learning to use her prosthetic hand.

**Asthma & Allergies**


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

**Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) & Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)**


**Summary:** 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.


**Summary:** 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. The newest edition contains an expanded note to parents with more detailed information about using medication for children with ADD.


**Summary:** 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.


Summary: This colorful book provides information to kids about the nature of ADD and various strategies for coping with ADD.


Summary: Matthew is in first grade and has trouble remembering, paying attention, and making friends. His teacher and doctor find that he has attention deficit disorder, and Matthew learns strategies to help himself in class and with his friends. He meets some friends who also have ADD.


Summary: Eddie has had a particularly rough day at school. He has had trouble paying attention, he bumps into things, and some kids in his class make fun of him. After he visits the doctor and learns he has ADD, his parents and teachers help him come up with strategies for improving his days at school.

**Autism & Aspergers Syndrome**


Summary: 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.


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


Summary: Sam is 5 and has autism, and Joey is his 6-year-old brother. They describe an ordinary day at home and at school, showing some of the ways they are different and alike.


Summary: 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.


Summary: Tobin the train engine has trouble understanding social situations and therefore has trouble making friends. Each short sections addresses a different skill, such as personal space, shouting and manners, and highlights how Tobin can use short rules to help him remember various social skills.


Summary: 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. Rose knows that Andy is in his own world most of the time, and that he has trouble finding the words to express himself.
Summary: 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.

**Blindness & Visual Impairments**

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

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

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

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

**Summary:** Today is Mandy Sue's turn to be excused from farm chores, so she spends the day riding and talking to her horse Ben. And Mandy Sue manages everything by herself, even though she is blind.

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

**Summary:** Told from a guide dog's perspective, this book shows the relationship between a guide dog and a young woman who is blind.

**Summary:** Eloise loves to paint pictures in bright colors that she describes for her elderly blind neighbor Rainbow Joe. Joe tells her he too can make colors sing and one Sunday he surprises her with his music.

**Summary:** Blindness affects different people different ways, but it doesn’t stop them from enjoying the same activities as sighted persons. This title features three people with blindness leading active, enjoyable lives.

**Brain Injury**

**Summary:** This story captures the emotions and perspective of the upheaval in a child's world when a parent has a brain injury. It will help family members guide children in their understanding of the effects of brain injury.
Cancer
**Summary:** Brian struggles with the fact his brother Jamey has leukemia and submits to a bone marrow test which leads to a transplant.

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

Cerebral Palsy
**Summary:** Profiles three young students with cerebral palsy, showing how they live their lives like kids without cerebral palsy. It includes a description of cerebral palsy and explains why kids with cerebral palsy often have extra exercises and sometimes operations.

**Summary:** A noisy little girl with cerebral palsy and a quiet little girl with Down Syndrome learn to play together and eventually become best friends.

**Summary:** 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, Emma Lou, who is six and has spina bifida, they both discover something very important about each other. For children with Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida.

**Summary:** 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.

**Summary:** 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.

**Summary:** 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.

**Summary:** Nathan struggles with cerebral palsy. Fire, a wounded owl that Nathan and his neighbor save, finds renewed interest in life while showing Nathan that even with physical limitations, there are important ways to help.

**Summary:** A young boy enjoys his new mobility with his first wheelchair.

**Summary:** Ann, who has cerebral palsy, attends school for the first time.

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**Child Abuse**


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

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**Chronic Illness**


**Summary:** 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.

Peterkin, Allan, M.D.  *What About Me? When Brothers and Sisters Get Sick*.  New York, NY:

**Summary:** 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.

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**Communication Disorders - Articulation Impairments**


**Summary:** This nonfiction book contains information for children who stutter, including helpful hints and information on how to teach others about their stuttering. Sample letters are enclosed that can be given to parents, teachers, and friends that explain what strategies are helpful to a person who stutters.


**Summary:** 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.


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


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


**Summary:** A 6-year-old boy, Armann, stutters when he is frustrated.

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**Cystic Fibrosis**


**Summary:** Anna is a young girl who has a difficult pattern to her days because she has cystic fibrosis.
Deaf-Blind
Summary: 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.

Deafness & Hearing Impairment
Summary: Thomas Edison's life and his many inventions, despite his deafness, that shape our lives today.

Summary: Herbie is a young child with a hearing impairment. When he gets hearing aids, he can suddenly hear all the sounds around him.

Summary: Spot's more colorful than ever! With a striking new cover to show him off, this lift-the-flap paperback has Spot's mom looking for her lost puppies -- especially Spot. But where is he? Little readers will have a bow-wow-wonderful time looking for the popular pooch, too. Flaps conceal the animals and diagrams showing how to form the Signed English signed for each word of the text accompany the text.

Summary: 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 in trying to understand and be understood by hearing individuals.

Summary: Moses has a great day with his friends and teacher at a school for students with hearing impairments. The story is told in text, pictures, and American Sign Language.

Summary: Moses and his classmates, who are hearing impaired, attend a concert and learn a surprising fact about the percussionist who performs. The story is told in text, pictures, and American Sign Language.

Summary: Moses, who is deaf, and his family are going to the circus. It is the Big Apple’s Circus of the Senses with acts specially designed for the deaf and hard of hearing and the blind. Moses’ little sister, Renee, isn’t deaf but is learning sign language, Moses loves teaching her and illustrations of some of the signs they use are included.

Summary: Frannie, a lonely little girl, discovers a new friend when a deaf girl her age moves in next door.

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


**Summary:** Provides words, illustrations, and sign language for common objects.


**Summary:** A girl tells about the everyday activities of her younger, hearing impaired sister. Based on the author’s own experiences. (also available in Chinese)

**Developmental Disability**


**Summary:** Along with pictures to color comes a story about a family whose new baby needs to stay in the hospital.


**Summary:** 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.

**Diabetes**


**Summary:** 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.

**Down’s Syndrome**


**Summary:** Buddy, a 5-year-old boy with Down Syndrome, purchases a puppy.


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


**Summary:** A noisy little girl with cerebral palsy and a quiet little girl with Down Syndrome learn to play together and eventually become best friends.


**Summary:** 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.


**Summary:** This simple counting book introduces numbers from 1 to 20 using photographs of children with Down syndrome. Companion to *ABC for You and Me* (2000).

**Summary:** Nick talks about living with Down Syndrome. He tells about playing with friends, going to school, and working with his speech therapist.


**Summary:** 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.


**Summary:** Molly, a 4-year-old girl with Down Syndrome, has difficulty talking. Her frustration with communication difficulties is relieved when someone comes to teach her sign language.


**Summary:** 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.


**Summary:** Recent book in a series about Russ, a boy with Down syndrome, who has a great day going to school and playing with friends. He takes responsibility for a mistake and feels good about himself when he does the right thing.


**Summary:** 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.


**Summary:** 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 fireman thank Russ for his hard work and invite him back for another visit.


**Summary:** Emma is a little girl who has a new baby brother with Down syndrome.


**Summary:** Charlsie, a 7-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.


**Summary:** A young boy named Charlie describes the activities he shares with his friend Isabelle, a girl with Down Syndrome.

**Epilepsy**

Summary: 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.

General Disabilities
Summary: Sosu is a young boy with a physical disability who lives in Ghana. He feels left out of many village activities until he is called upon to show his strength.

Summary: Brown and Ortiz show that the differences that seem to separate children with handicaps from others are not important. What is important is the common delight in life—a desire to love, learn and play, and to be accepted for themselves as other children are.

Summary: This is a story that will help the reader gain an understanding of what it means to be physically and mentally challenged.

Summary: 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.

Summary: 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.

Summary: 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.

Summary: 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.

Summary: 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.

Summary: The Big Orange Splot is a marvelous example of individuality.
Summary: Keith meets a variety of people with differences, including Down syndrome and physical differences, and learns that being different is okay.

Summary: Younger children can find out about individual disabilities, special equipment that is available to help the disabled, and how people of all ages can deal with disabilities and live happy and full lives.

Summary: A 6-year-old boy describes life with his mother, a teacher with physical disabilities.

Summary: Willy wants to make this Christmas special for his best friend now that Carlos is in a wheelchair. So he e-mails Santa asking him to bring a gift to Carlos in his apartment on the nineteenth floor.

**Learning Disability, Dislexia, Reading Disability**

Summary: 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.

Summary: 10-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.

Summary: 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: Pre School and Grade School

Summary: Matt explains his dyslexia and tells about strategies he uses in school. Includes a list of tips for teachers.

Summary: Charlie excels at some school activities but struggles with other school activities. After his doctor determines that he has a learning disability, his teacher implements some learning strategies that help Charlie's performance and confidence.

**Mental Illness**

Summary: A boy named Fish is beginning to feel anxious and confused. He finds a friend in gentle Iris the Dragon, and as their friendship progresses Iris teaches Fish techniques for dealing with his
mental illness. Iris encourages Fish to visit the doctor, and he eventually enters a clinic but writes letters to Iris until he returns home.

**Mental Retardation**
**Summary:** Carlo tells us what it is like to have an older sister with mental retardation.

**Summary:** When Kate meets Timmy, a boy who is mentally disabled, she is full of questions. After talking with her mother, Kate realizes that she and Timmy have a lot in common and they become fast friends.

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

**Mobility and Disability / Service Animals**
**Summary:** Addresses such topics as who uses a wheelchair, how their used, famous people who use wheelchairs, wheelchair access, wheelchair sports, and many other topics regarding wheelchairs.

**Summary:** Patty Jean tries her older sister's wheelchair and discovers it's not the royal throne she imagined.

**Summary:** When Lauretta's mother takes her shopping for a new wheelchair, Lauretta wants one that goes really fast. The store lets her have a 92-speed dirt bike model for home testing, and then Laurette's adventures begin.

**Parkinson's Disease**
**Summary:** Patrick and Mr. Jennings are neighbors and good friends. Mr. Jennings is having some trouble walking and his hands shake. When he visits the doctor, he learns he has Parkinson's disease.

**Spina Bifida**
**Summary:** 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, Emma Lou, who is six and has spina bifida, they both discover something very important about each other. For children with Cerebral Palsy, Spina Bifida.

**Summary:** The teacher gives Moses and his class an assignment to write about a friend. His friend Katie has an iguana named Zaki who is missing toes, making it hard for her to walk and climb. Moses decides to write about Zaki because he and Zaki have a lot in common. They both have special needs. More than just a story about friendship, this book looks at difference in a clever yet subtle way.

**Tourette Syndrome**
Summary: An informative story about Tourette Syndrome, told from the point of view of a child who has Tourette syndrome.

Death and Dying
Summary: This story shows the continuance of everyday family life despite grandmother's death. Although everyone misses grandmother, her spirit is kept alive through the family members' affectionate memories. Baking grandmother's special Christmas cookies helps ease everyone's sadness.

Summary: A loving grandfather creates objects, songs, and stories for his granddaughter. When he is confined to a wheelchair, the child takes care of him. After his death she hurts "inside and out."

Summary: Four-year-old Tommy's bedridden grandmother dies. Tommy's mother urges him to keep her alive in his memories. A falling star is interpreted as a kiss from Nana Upstairs. Years later, Tommy recalls the star and thinks of his Nana Downstairs.

Summary: Beautifully illustrated tale of the lifecycle of a tree. The story covers the life of the tree, from the time a seed is dropped by a bird, grows, and finally turns to sawdust, makes a home for new trees, and becomes a seed again.

Summary: When his beloved Uncle Tim dies of AIDS, Daniel struggles to find reassurance and understanding and learns that his favorite grown-up has left him a legacy of joy and courage.

Summary: The Sesame Street family helps Big Bird handle his emotions when he forgets that Mr. Hooper has died. Includes helpful notes to parents.

Summary: When her Grandma dies, 7-year-old Suzie goes back with her parents to visit the small town where her Mother grew up to attend Grandma's funeral.

Summary: Wise old Badger's sole regret about dying is the grief his friends will feel. Badger's death is portrayed in a dream state as a "walk down a long tunnel." The memory of Badger lives on as his friends recall the countless ways Badger has enriched their lives.

Summary: Four young children find a dead bird and decide to give it a funeral. They visit the dead bird's grave for several days but gradually forget him. This book handles death in a caring but not overly intense manner.

Summary: Lew and his mother share their memories of grandfather who died several years before. This book portrays the keen memories young children often have for the significant people in their lives.
GRADE SCHOOL AGES 6 TO 11

Disability Listing:

Accidents & Injuries
Summary: In his rush to get out the door, the stuffed toy, Elliot Moose, rips open the seam on his leg. All his toy friends try to fix him before all his stuffing comes out.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)
Summary: Six-year-old Jason is upset when he discovers that his beloved Uncle Jimmy has AIDS, but he feels better after visiting his uncle in the hospital and hearing more about his condition.

Walvoord Girard, Linda. Alex, the Kid with AIDS. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman, 1991.
Summary: Alex, a fourth grader with AIDS, makes a new friend and learns that although he is sick, he can't misbehave in school.

Alcoholism
Summary: A child describes how it feels when his mother drinks. Includes sources of help for children whose parents are alcoholics.

Alzheimer's Disease
Summary: When Gramps realizes he has Alzheimer's disease, he starts a memory box with his grandson, Zach, to keep memories of all the times they have shared.

Summary: From New York Times bestselling author Maria Shriver comes a poignant and compassionate story about one family coping with Alzheimer's disease and memory loss.

Amputee and Congenital Limb Malformation
Summary: Although she is saddened that storm damage has caused her to lose some of her branches, Little Tree draws strength and happiness from the knowledge that she still has a strong trunk, deep roots, and a beautiful heart.

Arthritis
Summary: Discusses the types of arthritis, the treatment and complications of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, and research related to this disease.

Summary: When eleven-year-old Regan begins to suffer from juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, she must face the possibility that her dream of being a professional dancer may never come true.


Summary: An eight-year-old girl talks about what her life is like with the disease of JRA or juvenile rheumatoid arthritis.

Asthma & Allergies

Summary: A young girl talks about her life and her asthma.


Summary: This is a useful educational tool for young children with asthma. Using the alphabet book format, the book reviews the anatomy, physiology and treatment of asthma.


Summary: About exercise-induced asthma.


Summary: Justin visits the allergist and has skin tests done. As a treat after the appointment, Justin's mom takes him and friend Ashley to the zoo. There they play a treasure hunt game, trying to locate all of the triggers for their allergies and asthma.


Summary: Sean's nebulizer mask and his imagination aid in his recovery following an asthma attack. Includes information on childhood asthma and how to control its symptoms.


Summary: The young narrator describes life as an asthmatic, explaining causes and symptoms of asthma, and discussing ways to control the disorder to lead a normal life.

Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) & Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

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


Summary: This is the imaginary journal of Sparky, a young boy with ADD. Sparky tells funny and not so funny stories about his life at school, at home, and with friends.


Summary: To the constant disappointment of his mother and his teachers, Joey has trouble paying attention or controlling his mood swings when his prescription medications wear off and he starts getting worked up and acting wired.
**Summary:** Ben, a boy with attention deficit disorder, describes the frustrations and feelings associated with his initially unidentified syndrome.

**Summary:** Emily, 12, has a younger brother who is hyperactive and a slow learner. Her worry about him affects her schoolwork and her peer relationships.

**Summary:** The big sister in this book is a great story teller! She explains in kids’ language how her brother’s ADHD affects her and how siblings of children with ADHD can often bear the brunt of family and home problems.

**Summary:** 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.

**Summary:** A great book for a child learning about their ADHD.

**Summary:** With the help of their teacher, Mr. Jugardor, Jimmy Jumpingbean’s classmates are able to put themselves into Jimmy’s shoes—both literally and figuratively—to learn what life’s like for a child with Attention Deficit Disorder.

**Summary:** In their own words, children explain what it’s like dealing with attention-deficit disorder. Bright, upbeat photographs personalize their explanations.

**Summary:** An amusing story of a boy who has developed a sense of self-worth by learning to deal with his problems through the help of the adults who care for and about him.

**Summary:** Book about a boy who can’t figure out why he can’t pay attention or sit still.

**Autism & Asperger Syndrome**

**Summary:** Inviting, colorful books offer students clear and readable introductions to conditions that affect them or their classmates. Chapters address causes, diagnoses, treatments, ways to help, and what to expect. This book focuses on Autism including an inspiring success story about artist Richard Wawro. Other books depict Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersee (Asthma), and the Reverend Jesse Jackson (Sickle Cell).

**Summary:** Timesong is the inspirational story of a three-legged coyote named j.b. Who befriends an autistic boy named Tom. Following the loss of his father, Tom retreats into a shell of isolation. j.b. counters Tom's despair with a simple and uplifting explanation of immortality.


**Summary:** Twelve-year-old Moose moves to Alcatraz in 1935 so his father can work as a prison guard and his younger, autistic sister, Natalie, can attend a special school in San Francisco. With its unique setting and well-developed characters, this warm, engaging coming-of-age story has plenty of appeal, and Choldenko offers some fascinating historical background on Alcatraz Island in an afterword.


**Summary:** The head teacher of a school for children with developmental disabilities believes animals can help the children. When a young autistic girl arrives, she's introduced to the school's many pets. Then a special bird captures the girl's attention.


**Summary:** Written by a clinical psychologist, this (fictional) view of an autistic child finding his place in a mainstream classroom.


**Summary:** A boy describes some of the many feelings he has about his brother Sammy, who is autistic.


**Summary:** Ben and his friend, Andy, discover a mystery after finding a blue bottle. As they work out the mystery, Ben is diagnosed with Asperger syndrome. His diagnosis makes it easier for him, his father, and his teacher to understand why Ben sometimes has problems at home and at school.


**Summary:** The result of a collaboration between author Helen Landalf and her brother, autistic savant artist Mark Rimland. The story of Amanda entering into a "secret world" one night in search of her missing "Tabby" will entertain all readers. The text seems to have followed the creation of the artwork rather than vice versa, as it seeks to weave together the adventures of these felines of different colors and sizes.


**Summary:** Julie tells about an outing to the park with her older sister and younger brother, who is autistic. As they walk through town, she describes the things that Ian does and the sensations he experiences that are different from what most people do and feel.


**Summary:** Lennard-Brown explains this complex disorder that causes people to "dance to a different beat" while making relationships and communication very difficult.


**Summary:** Tommy learns how to befriend a peer who has Autism.

**Summary:** Eight-year-old Sarah Peralta demystifies autism by giving us insights into the world of her younger brother, who is nonverbal. Through her simple depictions of Evan's everyday behavior, Sarah encourages others to approach autism without fear or pity.


**Summary:** Eleven-year-old narrator Elsie gradually makes clear that she and her autistic younger brother, Tommy, have been stolen away from their father by their emotionally unstable mother.


**Summary:** Discusses what autism is, how it is diagnosed and treated, and ways that siblings of people with autism can find support.


**Summary:** Book is written from the perspective, Jonathon, of a young boy with Autism.


**Summary:** Originally a bedtime story for his son with autism, author wrote this book with lessons of love and life, regardless of our strengths and challenges.


**Summary:** A young Canadian boy struggles to adapt to his new and often difficult life in the Arctic.


**Summary:** Picture book written and illustrated by a 9-year-old boy with pervasive developmental disorder—not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS). The author wrote this book using the literacy program *Image-Making Within the Writing Process*, an art-and-literature-based approach to writing in which children construct paper collages in order to generate story ideas. In these pages, the author has created an imaginative story based on a sequence of his vibrant collage images. The story is about a Blobshocker named Henry, who travels from outer space to Earth in order to find a more comfortable place to live.

**Blindness & Visual Impairments**


**Summary:** Because of his own blindness, a young Frenchman created an alphabet used by the blind to read and write. Includes actual raised dot letters and numbers.


**Summary:** Traces the personal life and musical career of the blind singer, musician, and composer, Ray Charles.


**Summary:** A visually impaired second-grader describes how she and her classmates live normal lives with various vision problems.


**Summary:** Brian, who is blind, enjoys taking care of the parakeet he receives on his eighth birthday. When his older brother lets the bird escape accidentally, then helps Brian get it back, both boys learn more about each other.

**Summary:** After Jimmy is blinded in an accident with a firecracker, he has to relearn all the things he used to know. With the help of a determined therapist, he learns to read Braille and to use a cane. Then he's given the chance to have a guide dog. Learning to work with Leader is not easy, but Jimmy tries harder than he ever has before.


**Summary:** When ten-year-old Abby Carter attends the newly established school for the blind in Boston in 1832, she proves that blind people can learn and be independent.


**Summary:** A young boy learns a different way of "seeing" the world from his blind grandfather.


**Summary:** Oscar, who is blind, teaches Lucy how to read his Braille book.


**Summary:** A storm knocks out the lights, and Sarah, blind since birth, takes charge to help her frightened cousins who are spending the night.


**Summary:** Simple text and photographs describe children who are blind, their challenges and adaptations, and their similarities with others.


**Summary:** Valerie is a child who is visually impaired. She is not totally blind, but even with glasses, she does not see as other children do.

**Brain Injury**


**Summary:** 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.


**Summary:** This book is written from the perspective of a young boy whose father has sustained a brain injury. It is designed to be used as a tool for helping children to understand what is happening to a parent with a brain injury and the subsequent recovery period. It is written in simple language and supplemented with illustrations.


**Summary:** Written by a brain injury survivor, a children's book that helps children learn to embrace life anew after self-image and the way others see them are fundamentally altered due to brain injury.


**Summary:** A delightful book about a little elephant named Elvin, who has a tree branch fall on his head. A visit to the neuropsychologist helps him understand that he's not a bad little elephant... he has a brain injury.

**Cancer**

**Summary:** Ten-year-old Dreenie feels both intrigued and frightened when she thinks about the girl nicknamed Bluish, whose leukemia is making her pale and causing her to use a wheelchair.


**Summary:** Kathy’s love of hats comes in handy when the chemotherapy treatments she receives for her cancer make her hair fall out.


**Summary:** The members of the Peanuts gang have varying reactions when they learn that their friend Janice has leukemia and they follow her treatment and ultimate recovery.

**Cerebral Palsy**


**Summary:** Mathias, six-years-old, was born with cerebral palsy and subsequently diagnosed as almost totally deaf. But he is a happy child, spinning through the garden in his electric wheelchair, miming guitar on a tennis racket, and kneading dough. Readers follow him through examinations, various therapies, riding horseback, ice-skating, etc.


**Summary:** Anna feels jealous when her neighbor's niece, Christine, arrives for a visit. Christine loves ponies, but she hasn't had a chance to ride because of her cerebral palsy. The Pony pals convince her to try lessons, but she is terrified of every horse, except Anna's Acorn. Soon Christine and Acorn develop a special bond, and Anna feels threatened.


**Summary:** Emily has cerebral palsy, but she and her specially trained horse get around just fine. The Saddle Club girls make friends with Emily and even take her on her first trail ride.


**Summary:** Adam, Chris and Matt are often harassed by bullies until they discover a magic marble.


**Summary:** 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.


**Summary:** 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.


**Summary:** 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.

**Summary:** 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.


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


**Summary:** Lennard-Brown explains this complex disorder that causes people to "dance to a different beat" while making relationships and communication very difficult.


**Summary:** Petey is a boy that has Cerebral Palsy. His parents sold everything they had to pay for the hospital bills. People thought that he was retarded so they sent him to Warm Springs Insane Asylum. His best friend Calvin, Owen, Cassie, Joe, and Trevor were the only ones who really understood him.


**Summary:** A child who has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair describes learning to ski with adaptive equipment.


**Summary:** A talented basketball player struggles to deal with the helplessness and anger that come with having a brother rendered completely dysfunctional by severe cerebral palsy and a father who deserted the family.


**Summary:** A young Canadian boy struggles to adapt to his new and often difficult life in the Arctic.


**Summary:** 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.


**Summary:** Ann (age 9) who has cerebral palsy, takes us through her struggles with everyday activities.

**Chronic Fatigue Syndrome**


**Summary:** Ten-year-old Beanie struggles with the start of a new school year, being excluded from the fifth grade in-crowd, and the extra burdens her mother's Chronic Fatigue Syndrome places on her.

**Communication Disorders - Articulation Impairments**


**Summary:** Owen grows to be five years old without speaking. "Never mind," says Mom, "he'll talk when he's ready." When Owen befriends two kindly giants down the block, he finally must speak to defend them against the biased neighbors.

**Summary:** Ben, who suffers from stuttering, must speak up in order to save the guard dog he befriended at the junkyard.


**Summary:** Karen, a 10-year-old girl who stays at a summer cottage with her grandmother encounters Tommy, a 9-year-old boy with a severe language disorder.


**Summary:** Fourth grader Robert Morris Reynolds, who cannot say his name properly because he has trouble pronouncing his Rs, works hard with a speech therapist to overcome his problem.


**Summary:** Story of a little girl with Selective Mutism, how she feels, how she acts and how her parents and teachers work to help her.

**Deafness & Hearing Impairments**


**Summary:** Conan describes life with his father who lost his hearing at the age of three.


**Summary:** Because her parents would not learn sign language, Dina the deaf dinosaur runs away from home and becomes friends with an owl, a mole, and a chipmunk.


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


**Summary:** Scully only listens to her teasing brother and scolding mother when she wants to; then she turns on her hearing aids. One rainy day when she wants to play outside, her mother sends her to her room instead. Sneaking out the back door causes Scully more problems before she and her mother reconcile. Canadian Governor's Award.


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


**Summary:** After learning that he is going deaf, Beethoven is determined to write a great symphony using the heroic deeds of Napoleon as his initial inspiration.


**Summary:** Explains the condition of deafness, its possible causes, and how it affects the everyday lives of those who are dealing with it.


**Summary:** Chris, who’s about 10 years old, explains how he uses sign language, hearing aids, lip reading, and other visual clues to compensate for his condition.

**Summary:** The boy’s deafness is unobtrusively woven into this story about a father and child sharing a moment in time.


**Summary:** Wonderfully diverse hands demonstrate each letter of the manual alphabet used in American Sign Language, while the colored pencil drawings suggest objects from A to Z.


**Summary:** Lacey the family dog is jealous of the new baby that her human parents brought home, until she discovers that the baby cannot hear.


**Summary:** Examines the nature, causes, history, treatment, means of communication, challenges, and social aspects of deafness.

**Developmental Disability**


**Summary:** A young mentally handicapped boy encounters many difficulties in his relationship with the other children until he establishes a special bond with the horse he learns to ride.


**Summary:** In this fast and funny first-person novel, 12-year-old Tru tries to figure out how to achieve her goals to have her own TV show and to help her twin brother, Eddie, who has a developmental disability after not getting enough oxygen at birth.


**Summary:** Though David knows frustration and resentment at times, he feels he understands his disabled little brother even better than his parents; and together the two boys experience a great deal of joy.


**Summary:** Tibby is a young bird with a crooked wing who will never be able to fly. Some of the other birds make fun of Tibby, but undaunted he travels cheerfully around the forest, making friends with Rupert Rabbit, Sarafina Squirrel, and others who make their home there. They teach him how to climb, slither, hop, and more — and Tibby tries it all! In the end, Tibby uses his newfound abilities to save the day and become a hero.

**Diabetes**


**Summary:** Three young people and one adult live normal, active lives despite their diabetes. Other subjects in the Living With series: blindness, cerebral palsy, deafness, epilepsy and Down syndrome.


**Summary:** This book explains in non-technical information what diabetes is and how to manage it in the classroom.

**Summary:** A young girl who has had diabetes since she was two years old describes her adjustments to the disease.

**Down Syndrome**

**Summary:** Provides basic information for those who suspect a learning disability or simply want to know more about the subject.


**Summary:** Second-grader Dustin, who has Down syndrome, anticipates the arrival of two very special guests at his school one day.


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


**Summary:** When he sees all the attention which his parents and people in the neighborhood give to Jacob, eleven-year-old Paul struggles with his feelings toward this younger brother who has Down syndrome.


**Summary:** Nine-year-old Nathan helps welcome his baby sister, who has Down’s syndrome, into the family and eagerly anticipates the day when she will be able to ride his tricycle.


**Summary:** When Kate meets Timmy, a boy who is mentally disabled, she is full of questions. After talking with her mother, Kate realizes that she and Timmy have a lot in common and they become fast friends.


**Summary:** 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.

**Dwarfism/ Short Stature**

**Summary:** This photographic biography about a child who has dwarfism answers questions children might have about a little person. It also encourages the reader to see Josh as a person with gifts, interests, goals, and aspirations.

**Epilepsy**

**Summary:** Benji is a 6-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.


**Summary:** Becky is Sarah’s big sister. In many ways they are alike, but as Sarah says, "Becky is brave…and I am not." Becky walks Sarah to her classroom each day. She is brave about going to a new school, about standing up to a big dog, and even about having epilepsy.
**General Disabilities**


**Summary:** Dominic relates all the wonderful things he does with his best friend Victor; telling scary stories at sleepovers, swimming at the pool, riding rollercoasters. The surprise ending is learning that Victor uses a wheel chair. Bilingual text in English and Spanish.


**Summary:** We meet a classroom of children and follow them through their school day. Beautiful photographs show children with and without disabilities actively engaged in their school activities.


**Summary:** 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.


**Summary:** This is a story that will help the reader gain an understanding of what it means to be physically and mentally challenged.


**Summary:** The new boy Philip, "different from most kids" because he uses a wheelchair and is generally ignored by his classmates because they don't know how to include him in their games. But when Arnie, his main tormentor, falls down the stairs while teasing Philip, the usually able-bodied boy discovers firsthand how hard and slow it is to navigate on crutches.


**Summary:** 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.


**Summary:** This interactive booklet helps elementary school age children understand any disability by using checklists and answering questions.


**Summary:** Ten-year-old Mary comes to live in a lonely house on the Yorkshire moors where she discovers an invalid cousin and the mysteries of a locked garden.


**Summary:** When Mandy finally finds Old Tiger, his ear is falling off, and he has no tail. Mandy wants to put him back together. When Mandy goes to the store, the steps out front make it impossible for her to get her wheelchair inside. No Fair to Tigers is a story about how Mandy and Old Tiger ask for fair treatment and solutions to the problems they encounter.


**Summary:** Tired of others letting him win at games, Kevin, a physically handicapped boy, learns how to win fair and square when he competes against a computer.

**Summary:** Set in fifteenth-century Paris, Hugo's powerful novel evokes medieval life as it tells of the doomed love of Quasimodo, the grotesque bell-ringer at the Cathedral of Notre Dame, for Esmeralda, the beautiful gypsy.


**Summary:** When Nick, confined to a wheelchair, enters a regular classroom for the first time as a result of U.S. Public Law 94-142, he and his new classmates must resolve their initial apprehensions about mainstreaming.


**Summary:** Coupled with the colorful illustrations, this book conveys the message that although painful at times, being different can also be glorious.


**Summary:** Rhyming text points out the many ways in which people differ from one another and encourages individuality.


**Summary:** Being shy and the only white kid in his fourth grade class, Keath is an easy target for bullies. His friendship with classmate Lynda and her three-legged dog, Leftovers, helps Keath cope with visiting his beloved, stroke-victim grandmother and standing up to his major tormentor in school.


**Summary:** Discusses ways to get to know more about people who are different because of various handicaps.


**Summary:** Alan is to take his first airplane ride to meet his father in New York. A wacky adventure ensues including Frieda, his cranky seatmate, who uses a wheelchair and an alien, Norbert, who previously took up residence in his nose.


**Summary:** The text/lyrics focus on the ridicule suffered by a boy with glasses, a girl who wears braces and a wheelchair-bound child, among others, ultimately uniting the voices of the bullied in the verse "Don't laugh at me./ Don't call me names./ Don't get your pleasure from my pain./ In God's eyes we're all the same."


**Summary:** This illustrated book introduces children to physical and learning disabilities. The book also introduces famous historical figures who had disabilities and succeeded despite them. Helps children understand that differences are not bad and that they add to the richness of our world.


**Summary:** The Doctor and You is a book for any young child who will experience a trip to a doctor's office, hospital, or health clinic. The photographs familiarize children with many of the medical instruments and machines they are likely to encounter during their visit, allowing them to become more comfortable with doctors and hospitals.
**Summary:** Placed on a dusty top shelf by the toy store owner, a doll who is not as new or pretty as the others still hopes that on Christmas Eve someone will come to take her home.

**Summary:** Trevor Trevor is a metaphor for children. Uses indirect teaching and implication to stimulate new ways of thinking. Trevor, is a child with impressive, though isolated skills. It is not Trevor's strengths that his classmates notice, but rather his differences. Change comes through the efforts of a caring and sensitive teacher.

**Summary:** Told in rhyme, this story follows Susan through a series of familiar activities. She swims with her father, works hard in school, plays with her friends—and even rides a horse. Lively, thoughtfully drawn illustrations reveal a portrait of a busy, happy little girl with whom younger readers will identify. Not until the end of the story is it revealed that Susan uses a wheelchair.

**Summary:** Featuring six real x-rays printed on mylar, Jessica's X-Ray is a unique and fun look inside our bodies and the world of x-rays written by a professional x-ray technologist who has worked extensively with children. In the book, kids follow Jessica, who has broken her arm, as she tours the hospital seeing x-ray rooms and looking at actual x-ray, CAT-scan, MRI and ultrasound images.

**Learning Disabilities, Dyslexia, Reading Difficulties**

**Summary:** Twelve-year-old Judge Jenkins has a low science grade because of his dyslexia, so he convinces his twin brother Jury to work with him in a science competition in order to earn extra credit.

**Summary:** 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.

**Summary:** Discusses how children with "learning differences" can get along better in school, set goals, and plan for the future.

**Summary:** 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.

**Summary:** Benny is a strong football player who struggles in school. When his academic problems start to affect his self-esteem and confidence, his coach suggests that Benny be evaluated for a
learning disability. With the assistance of the resource teacher, Benny's reading and academic skills improve along with his self-confidence.

**Summary:** Julie is an 8th grader who has trouble in math. Frustrated, she rests her head on her book... and is awaken 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.

**Summary:** 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.

**Summary:** Josh struggles to live down the stigma of his learning disability, dyslexia, and receive both respect and friendship from his peers. Includes information on the characteristics of dyslexia and a list of organizations that deal with learning disabilities.

**Summary:** A young boy describes the experiences of his slow learning younger brother at school and at home.

**Summary:** Written from the perspective of 5 elementary students, this book improves the self esteem of young readers with attention deficit disorder, dyslexia, language disorder, social or motor skills deficits.

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

**Summary:** "A children's book set in 1950's is the true, heart touching story of a child's struggle with dyslexia.

**Summary:** 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.

**Summary:** Written by a neuroscientist and pediatrician, this guide for dyslexics and their families aims to demystify the subject of reading difficulties. Drawing upon recent research, Shaywitz describes the mechanisms underlying dyslexia along with the range of effective treatments available for dyslexic people of all ages.

**Summary:** A good book for kids and parents to read together, it provides a good way to think and talk about learning differences.
**Mental Illness**


**Summary:** Tanya’s continuing fear of the Tobo Man leads her mother to start her in therapy at a children’s mental health center, where she discovers how to express her feelings and eventually loses her fear.


**Summary:** Today’s children are stressed. They need learning tools that are fun, informative and memorable to help them cope. *Cool Cats, Calm Kids* is a practical yet humorous guide to stress management for children ages 7-12.

**Mental Retardation**


**Summary:** Lucy and her younger brother examine their feelings about a mentally handicapped boy they both fear when he follows them home one snowy day.


**Summary:** Chad experiences a range of emotions when he goes camping with his parents and his five-year-old mentally disabled brother Ben who has many developmental problems.


**Summary:** Five-year-old Gracie has always had a special bond with her Aunt Roo, who is mentally disabled, but that relationship starts to change when Gracie begins school.


**Summary:** 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.


**Summary:** Jennalee’s world is turned upside-down when a stranger names Rupert comes to town. Rupert has a mental disability, and Jennalee must adjust to sharing her friends and family with him.


**Summary:** Carly learns a lot about Alex, her mentally disabled older brother, as he trains for and competes in the Special Olympics.


**Summary:** Fifth-grader Katie wants to be best friends with the new girl who seems to be good at everything, but that means leaving her friend Esther and the mentally handicapped neighbor boy behind.


**Summary:** 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.
**Mobility and Disability / Service Animals**


**Summary:** A boy's wonderful mama takes him zooming everywhere with her, because her wheelchair is a zooming machine.


**Summary:** Though confined to a wheelchair, Jonathan faces the terror of a tornado all by himself and saves the lives of the horses on the family farm.


**Summary:** The movement to train animals to assist people with disabilities began in early 1900s with dog guides for the blind. Over the years, interest in animal helpers, or service animals, grew, and animals learned how to help people with other types of disabilities including deafness and paralysis. Read about the history of animal helpers and learn how these animals are trained and how they help people with disabilities in their daily lives.


**Summary:** Describes the history of the sport of wheelchair road racing, as well as the training, equipment, and rules involved.


**Summary:** Describes the raising and training of Freedom, a seeing eye dog, beginning with its selection as a candidate to be a guide dog up to its placement with an appropriate master.


**Summary:** In this updated version of a familiar folktale, baby bear gets around in a wheelchair and has a motorized bed which fascinate Goldilocks when she becomes friends with him after her surprise visit to the three bears' house.


**Summary:** Simple text and illustrations discuss the challenges of being in a wheelchair, why some children cannot walk, and how those who use a wheelchair function at school and at play.

**Muscular Dystrophy**


**Summary:** Describes the life, including medical attention and various daily activities, of a nine-year-old boy with Duchenne muscular dystrophy.


**Summary:** A young boy with muscular dystrophy tells how he is teamed up with a dog trained to do things for him that he can't do for himself.

**Paralysis**


**Summary:** An easy-to-read biography of the actor Christopher Reeve, noting the accident that left him paralyzed.

**Summary:** While trying to discover what happened to her elderly neighbor who has mysteriously disappeared, thirteen-year-old Crystal confronts her feelings of guilt related to the car accident that killed her father and left her confined to a wheelchair.


**Summary:** Although being in a wheelchair will make the trip difficult, Darcy feels called to go with members of her church on a mission to Guatemala, where she and her sister help a deaf orphan.

**Polio**


**Summary:** Wilma Rudolph overcame polio to win three Gold Medals in track at the 1960 Olympics.


**Summary:** In her youth, Mexican painter Frida Kahlo overcame polio and a debilitating accident to create unique and renowned art.

**Psychology**


**Summary:** Brief text and photographs of carvings made from vegetables introduce the world of emotions by presenting leading questions such as "Are you feeling angry?"

**Spina Bifida**


**Summary:** Spina bifida keeps Tomasito in a wheelchair, where he often feels like his featherless pet bird, Desplumado, who cannot fly. But with a friend's encouragement, Tomasito finds freedom on the soccer field. Bilingual text in English and Spanish.


**Summary:** Margaret is 9-years-old and has problems with the fact she is in a wheelchair and blames it for slowing her down.

**Tourette Syndrome**


**Summary:** Adam, Chris and Matt are often harassed by bullies until they discover a magic marble.


**Summary:** Adam, a 10-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.

**Death and Dying**


**Summary:** Nadia refuses to lose the memories of her beloved older brother after his disappearance in the desert. She helps her village embrace his death and treasure their memories of him.

**Summary:** This book describes the love between a child and her grandfather. Throughout her childhood years, grandfather helped and cherished her. As he becomes increasingly bedridden, the child cares for him. After his death, she reflects on the life/death cycle while sitting in their orchard.


**Summary:** Well-crafted summary of the grief process, this book discusses the various aspects of grief and the ways people cope with the death of loved ones. In assuming the concept of life after death, this book is sensitive to differences in religious belief and practices and provides opportunities for the young reader to think, to ask questions, and to grow.


**Summary:** Two young brothers deal with their grief at the death of their favorite uncle who is killed in a motorcycle accident. The book is accompanied by a study guide.


**Summary:** Laura, a Chinese-American girl, assists her family in preparation for grandfather’s funeral. Blends funeral practices from both Asian and Christian cultures. Includes many customs which would by appropriate for children of any culture.


**Summary:** The allegorical tale relates the phenomena of life and death through the experiences of Freddie the leaf and his wise friend Daniel.


**Summary:** Young Christopher has indirectly caused the death of his dog. His parents help him understand his guilt and anger and gradually ease him through the grief process.


**Summary:** Lien, a 6-year-old Vietnamese-American child, learns about death and life from her dying grandmother. Grandmother tells her to search for the meaning of death by going out to the garden and holding her hands to Heaven. In doing so, a delicate snowflake falls to the ground and waters a small green shoot, illustrating the eternal life-death cycle.


**Summary:** A wonderfully gentle way for children to learn about the value of life as well as the reality of death and dying.


**Summary:** Story of a little Navajo girl who is given a weaving stick by her grandmother. Annie’s grandmother is old and predicts that she will die. Grandmother helps Annie resume the weaving by explaining the cycle of life and death.


**Summary:** Amanda the squirrel is upset that she is going to lose her friend Gentle Willow, but the tree wizards give advice that help both her and Gentle Willow accept the change that comes with death.
**Summary:** Erica's first encounter with death is through the death of her friend's grandfather. A peaceful death bed scene is described. A gentle philosophy of "light and love" that transcends death.

**Summary:** Seven-year-old Benjamin announces that "Black Dog has gone away to die." That night each family member dreams of Black Dog. Conveys the deep sense of loss an entire family can feel after the death of a family pet.

**Summary:** A boy is heartbroken by the death of his cat, Barney. His parents help him plan a funeral and encourage him to remember "ten good things about Barney."
MIDDLE SCHOOL AGES 11 TO 14
(Can be used in High School also)

Disability Listing:

Amputee and Congenital Limb Malformation

Summary: Biography of world famous African American tap dancer who had only one leg. Tells about Clayton Bates's unstoppable love of dancing, his accident in 1919 at age twelve, and the wooden leg his uncle whittled for him—the peg leg that became his nickname.


Summary: A sophomore in high school begins the slow, agonizing adjustment to life after having her leg amputated below the knee.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)

Summary: 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.

Arthritis

Summary: Book explains the physiology of the illness, what causes it, and what it's like to live with it. Concluding sections look at possible treatments and potential cures.

Asthma & Allergies

Summary: Jacob struggles with severe asthma. He also struggles with his family and everyone at his new school to be treated as a regular kid.


Summary: This book introduces children and adolescents to the mechanics of asthma and explores strategies for self-management of the condition. Anatomical and situational factors in asthma are explained in simple language with illustrative diagrams. Early warning signs of coming attacks and relaxation techniques are described.

Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) & Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

Summary: Hyperactive Joey tries to hold things together as his father shows up on a motorcycle to taunt his mother, he is home-schooled with a hostile blind girl, and his feisty grandmother copes with emphysema.

**Summary:** Jimmy acts like a wiggle-worm. He squirms. He fidgets. He calls out in class, clowns around on the playground and can't concentrate when it's time for homework. When he tries to slow his racing motor, he just can't settle down. Even so, says Michael, Jimmy's best friend and the story's narrator, Jimmy is kind and smart and has a big heart.

**Autism & Asperger Syndrome**


**Summary:** Kristy babysits a child with autism after school and is fascinated to learn about autism and other disabilities as she gets to know Susan and her family. She deals with her own assumptions, other students' perceptions of children with special needs, and other disability issues.


**Summary:** Nine-year old Haley Myles offers practical suggestions for everyday situations faced by children with Asperger Syndrome. Haley has included sections on challenges at school, getting along with others, dealing with emotions, safety tips, first aid, and more.


**Summary:** Brothers and sisters from ages 7 to 13, express their love as well as their disappointment, and how impossible it is to live with their brothers and sisters with Autism, and how they can't imagine living without them.


**Summary:** 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.

**Blindness & Visual impairments**


**Summary:** Author answers thirteen thought-provoking questions that children have asked her over the years about being blind. Each one addresses a different aspect of her experience of being blind, from coping with her loss and dealing with people who don't know how to treat a blind person to marrying a man she couldn't see and being a blind mom.


**Summary:** Four children talk about living with a special needs parent - one blind, one deaf, one wheelchair bound and one a dwarf.


**Summary:** Traces the personal life and musical career of the blind singer, musician, and composer, Ray Charles.


**Summary:** Rosie feels that her friendship with Bailey, who is vision impaired, is threatened when a new girl moves into the neighborhood. After Rosie and Bailey have a falling out, Granny Torrelli reunites them through cooking in her kitchen.
**Summary:** A visually impaired Native American boy earns the name “Sees Behind Trees” by using his other senses to “see what can’t be seen.”

**Summary:** About a blind Native American boy in the mid-19th century.

**Summary:** This nonfiction book profiles several people who are visually impaired who work in a variety of health care jobs, including nursing professor, genetic counselor, and occupational therapist. Each profile contains information about the person as well as the job. The book is designed to assist young adults who are considering careers.

**Summary:** When Ethiopian villagers are forced to flee toward Sudan, two young girls from different backgrounds learn to rely on each other. Sahay is from a Christian family, while Rahel is Jewish and blind. Sahay's offer to lead Rahel through the desert is the beginning of their friendship.

**Summary:** 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.

**Summary:** Chronicles the life of the popular Grammy-winning composer, pianist and singer who was born blind. Part of the Overcoming Adversity series.

**Brain Injury**

**Summary:** Discussion of traumatic brain injuries, their symptoms, and possible consequences. Author describes the parts of the brain and their functions and addresses the different types of head injuries, diagnosis, treatment, long-term behavior disorders, and rehabilitation. Emphasis is placed on prevention (seat belts, helmets, etc.) and on developing awareness that head injuries are often underestimated in their severity.

**Summary:** This is a very personal view into the emotions experienced by a wife and mother of two young children as she was thrust into the complex and confusing world of brain injury.

**Summary:** One in a series of four books about "The Amazing Brain," aimed at the middle school audience, this one discusses the effects of pathology on the human brain. Beginning with the everyday changes in brain physiology and chemistry that can cause pain or discomfort to the most devastating diseases, both inherited and acquired.

**Summary:** Jerome is a teen who finds his life changed forever in a split-second accident. In this book readers will learn his story and information about brain injuries and how they affect people’s lives.

**Summary:** Author explores the history of injuries to the brain from primitive medical treatment to the sophisticated techniques we use today. She also addresses the consequences that can follow a severe head injury from treatment to recovery to rehabilitation.


**Summary:** Jeremiah Rogers could not walk like other children. He could not speak well. His hands were not coordinated. And even worse, he could not think clearly. Jeremiah's older sister, M.J., invites readers to step into the world of her brain-injured brother.


**Summary:** When Adam was eight years old, he fell and ran an arrow into his head. Nine operations in six months. With rare insight and humor, Adam tells of his ordeal and his determination to get well.


**Summary:** Describes what happens when David and Laura are in a car accident and suffer serious injuries, ranging from a ruptured blood vessel near Laura's spleen to a major artery that bursts in David's brain.

**Cancer**


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


**Summary:** Lately, Paul hasn't been allowed to do much of anything, much less play baseball. He's got leukemia, and it's put him into the hospital several times. His parents are so worried, they've forbidden him to play the game he loves so much. They're afraid that if Paul strains himself, his illness may come back a final time ... and maybe even take his life.

**Cerebral Palsy**


**Summary:** In this sensitive, scientific discussion, readers are told what it is like to have Cerebral Palsy. Cerebral Palsy strikes about two in one thousand infants yearly in the United States.


**Summary:** In the town of Maysville, Kentucky, a young girl named Sarah dreams of exploring the giant wooded hill she views daily from her bay window, where she sits in a wheelchair. When she finally gets a chance to climb it on horseback, she discovers a mystery in the form of a deserted mansion.


**Summary:** Shelley Nixon loves to laugh, to write stories and poetry, and to challenge herself. In this heartfelt autobiography, she tells readers how she does all this while confined to a wheelchair and living with all the other challenges of cerebral palsy.
**Summary:** Follow our teen hero and heroine (with cerebral palsy) through thrills, romance, and adventure all rolled into this "who-done-it".

**Summary:** Groundbreaking novel about four outcasts who build a rowboat over the summer. One boy is mentally retarded and another has cerebral palsy. Reissued edition.

**Summary:** It's the first day at a new school for Johnnie Jacobson. It's going to be challenging, but will it be as adventuresome as the summer was?

**Cystic Fibrosis**
**Summary:** Introduces Kenny and clearly explains the symptoms, cause, treatment and prognosis of his condition. Other subjects in the Health Watch series: arthritis, asthma, attention-deficit disorder, bipolar disorder and depression, diabetes, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and muscular dystrophy.

**Deaf-Blind**
**Summary:** Biography of the outstanding woman who overcame her disabilities to be an inspirational public figure. Discusses the cause of Helen Keller’s blindness and deafness, her determination to lead a useful life, and the importance of her teacher, Annie Sullivan, in achieving that goal.

**Summary:** The story of the deaf and blind girl taught to communicate by finger-spelling. She is known worldwide for her intelligence, determination and activism.

**Summary:** If seventh-grader Mic Parsons doesn't pass mathematics, his parents won't let him try out for the baseball team. Mic has mixed feelings about his fifteen-year-old deaf and blind sister Stephenie, but appreciates her in a new way after she helps Mic learn fractions.

**Deafness & Hearing Impairment**
**Summary:** Two brothers, Will and Donnie, one with a severe hearing impairment, climb Mt. Fuji in Japan.

**Summary:** Four children talk about living with a special needs parent - one blind, one deaf, one wheelchair bound and one a dwarf.

**Summary:** A 12-year-old deaf boy balks at daily speech therapy sessions during summer vacation until a scary encounter with smugglers underscores the importance of communication.
Summary:  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.

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

Piper, Deb.  Jake's the Name, Sixth Grade's the Game.  Unionville, NY: Royal Fireworks Press. 1996.
Summary: Jake Zulinski, an otherwise normal 6th grader, regales readers with funny situations he encounters because of his deafness.

Summary: This book of photographs highlights the 1998-1999 women's basketball team at Gallaudet University. The story of a team of deaf women who advanced to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen is told almost entirely in pictures.

**Developmental Disabilities**

Summary: Will they laugh at my clothes? Will I fall in love? Will I get lost? These questions rumble through the mind of Emily on the eve of their first day in high school. Not only is tomorrow her first day in high school, it is also her first day ever in "regular" school, because Emily has a developmental disability.

**Diabetes**

Summary: An eleven-year-old boy describes how he learned that he had diabetes, the effect of this disease on his life, and how he learned to cope with the changes in his life.

**Down’s Syndrome**

Story Profile: Newfoundland story of a young man with Down syndrome who displays courage and kindness towards a judgmental government official. Down Syndrome/Mental Retardation

Summary: Gretchen, through poetry, describes her emotional development toward independence and adult relationships.

Summary: 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.

**Dwarfism/ Short Stature**

Summary: Four children talk about living with a special needs parent - one blind, one deaf, one wheelchair bound and one a dwarf.

Kuklin, Susan.  Thinking Big/Mine for a Year: The Story of a Young Dwarf.  New York, NY:
Summary: Two books in one. “Thinking Big is important to eight-year-old Jaime Osborn. Jaime is a dwarf. Her body will grow to average size, but her limbs will always be short. Jaime is one of the Little People of America. Doug the black Labrador is just a pup when he comes to spend a year with George and his foster family. Afterwards, Doug will become a guide dog for a blind person. Since George has problems with his eyes, it’s possible that he will need a dog guide one day. Mine for a Year is a remarkable true story of a boy and a dog.

General Disabilities
Summary: The story of two sisters, one of who has a physical disability (Kathryn), as they prepare to participate in a wedding.

Summary: 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.

Summary: Four children talk about living with a special needs parent - one blind, one deaf, one wheelchair bound and one a dwarf.

Summary: A teenage girl is transformed when her younger brother with special needs disappears while trying to find the swans he had seen the day before.

Summary: 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.

Summary: Nearly 50 men and women with mental or physical disabilities are profiled in this collection including well-known figures as: Thomas Edison, Ludwig van Beethoven, Harriet Tubman, Tom Cruise, Chris Burke, and Robert Dole.

Summary: A wheelchair bound teacher, Mrs. Olinski, returns to teaching after a car accident and shapes four sixth graders into a victorious academic bowl team.

Summary: Gives guidance for young people on handling physical disabilities, with emphasis on problems faced by teens in school and dating.

Summary: 45 siblings share their experiences. The children whose essays are featured range in age from 4 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.

**Summary:** Naomi and Owen have lived happily with their great-grandmother in her trailer for seven years. Gram has arranged Owen's surgeries for his physical disabilities and helped Naomi begin to speak again. When their mother reappears to claim only Naomi, Gram runs away with the children to Mexico to find their father and their heritage. For grades 4 to 7. Schneider Family Book Award, 2005.


**Summary:** At the beginning of eighth grade, learning disabled Max and his new friend Freak, whose birth defect has affected his body but not his brilliant mind, find that when they combine forces they make a powerful team.


**Summary:** Succinct descriptions of special athletes. Included are baseball's Jim Abbott (born with one hand) and pro golfer Casey Martin (who uses a motorized cart because of a circulatory leg disability).


**Summary:** Ten kids answer questions about their various disabilities, including brittle bone disease, fetal alcohol syndrome and hemophilia. Elementary school students in the Westridge Young Writers Workshop are responsible for this candid exploration.

**Learning Disability, Dyslexia, Reading Disability**


**Summary:** 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.


**Summary:** One in a series of books to increase awareness of youth with special needs, this edition defines the various diagnoses that fall under the category of learning disabilities.


**Summary:** Helen fears that her limited ability to read will keep her in sixth grade forever, until a new teacher recognizes that she is dyslexic.


**Summary:** Sixteen-year-old Nick has a learning disability and struggles to endure life in which the other kids make fun of him. He has to take special classes, his date for the prom makes an excuse not to go out with him; and he is not sure about his place in the world.


**Summary:** Emily Gold, a learning disabled thirteen-year-old, struggles to be independent from her overprotective parents.


**Summary:** A fifth-grader who is frustrated and humiliated because he can't read as well as his classmates becomes a star on the football field, and when he is diagnosed with dyslexia, he finds that he has a whole team of people ready to help.

**Summary:** This biography of the portrait artist tells about his undiagnosed childhood problems with dyslexia and learning disabilities, when art was the only subject he enjoyed. Already a famous painter in the 1960s, he was paralyzed from the neck down in 1988. The doctors said his career was over, but Close found a way to keep painting.


**Summary:** Starting out in the seventh grade, Katie Kelso finds herself trying to cope with her dyslexia and form a friendship with a very bright boy at school, while she and her family deal with her mother’s cancer diagnosis.


**Summary:** 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 bother comprehensive yet simple to understand.


**Summary:** The poignant story of a young girl with learning problems, including ADD and dyslexia. She finds daily life an emotional and psychological struggle. Until one day, a very special teacher enters her life...


**Summary:** Unable to read, ten-year-old Joey is often in trouble at school for his rebellious behavior until a series of circumstances involving a remedial reading teacher, a neighbor, a cat, and his new stepfather help him conquer his problem.


**Summary:** 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.


**Summary:** Ben and Trout are best friends and both have ADD and learning disabilities. They have a great time together, but their pranks get them into trouble at school. Ben must make some difficult decisions about his friendship with Trout.


**Summary:** Jimmy acts like a wiggle-worm. He squirms. He fidgets. He calls out in class, clowns around on the playground and can't concentrate when it's time for homework. When he tries to slow his racing motor, he just can't settle down. Even so, says Michael, Jimmy's best friend and the story's narrator, Jimmy is kind and smart and has a big heart.

**Mental Retardation**


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

**Summary:** The mother of a child diagnosed as mildly retarded at age 2 recounts experiences of the child's growing up into an adult.

**Summary:** Twelve-year-old Sammy, who is mildly retarded, runs away from home and becomes a prisoner of Kevin, a wild kid living in the woods.

**Summary:** Groundbreaking novel about four outcasts who build a rowboat over the summer. One boy is mentally retarded and another has cerebral palsy. Reissued edition.

**Summary:** Tiger Ann Parker, a straight A student, learns to lovingly accept her mentally challenged parents in this touching coming-of-age story.

**Mobility and Disability / Service Animals**

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

**Summary:** Four children talk about living with a special needs parent - one blind, one deaf, one wheelchair bound and one a dwarf.

**Summary:** Paralyzed by a car accident and his subsequent anger, a 12-year-old boy grows more positive when he begins to play wheelchair basketball.

**Summary:** Photo essay that introduces a teenage quadriplegic and the capuchin monkey which has been trained to help him.

**Summary:** Inspiring introduction to a young people's dance troupe that combines stand-up dancers and sit-down dancers in their wheelchairs.

**Paralysis**

**Summary:** When Lupe falls out of a tree in her Mexican village, she is paralyzed from the waist down. Angry and feeling sorry for herself, Lupe goes to a center for disabled people, who help her realize that her life can still have a purpose.

**Summary:** 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.

**Perception Disorders/ Impairments**


**Summary:** Eight-grader Mia has been keeping a secret—ever since third grade, when she realized that not everyone sees a color for each name, number, and sound. Problems at school and her cat's death lead Mia to discoveries about herself and synesthesia. Schneider Family Book Award, 2004.

**Polio**


**Summary:** A biography of Franklin D. Roosevelt.


**Summary:** At age 39, while a state senator in New York, Roosevelt contracted polio, but he continued in politics and became the 32nd President of the United States.


**Summary:** The author describes her battle against polio when she was thirteen and her efforts to overcome its debilitating effects.

**Death and Dying**


**Summary:** Wishing to be like his brother, who's dead but often materializes to give Wally advice and support, Wally enters a skateboarding competition and finally gains the confidence to be himself.


**Summary:** When her adored baby brother suddenly dies of pneumonia, 11-year-old Belle is left to cope with the devastating effects on her family.


**Summary:** Eleven-year-old Sadako is dying of leukemia. This story portrays Sadako’s hope for eventual health and her final acceptance to death. Story revolves around the Japanese legend that one thousand folded paper cranes will restore health.


**Summary:** Ten-year-old Jeremy's painful adjustments to the death of his pet pig mirrors the same feelings of grief, loneliness, and anger over his mother's desertion.


**Summary:** Fourth grader Vickie and her fifth grade sister gradually begin to cope with mom's frequent illness, her hospitalization, and her eventual death. In the process the girls begin to rely on their father and each other. Emphasis is on family communication, unity, and “life goes on” despite the tragedy.
**Summary:** Eleven-year-old Jenna begins to accept her chronic disability through the wise counsel of a terminally ill friend. Emphasizes the importance of life and independence to seriously ill children.

**Summary:** This story revolves around 9-year-old Austin's first visit back to his grandparents' farm after his grandfather's death. Grandmother and grandchild cope with their grief by sharing activities that grandfather loved.

**Summary:** Mary Ann, age 10, is dying of an incurable heart disease. The story depicts the confusion and sadness her family feels as her death approaches.

**Summary:** A young girl seems unable to grieve the death of a younger brother by Reye's syndrome. The girl and her family learn to cope through professional counseling.

**Summary:** Eleven-year-old Hallie is "kept in the dark" about her younger brother's impending death--a fact she intuitively knows. Shows difficulty of Hallie's grieving due to parental secretiveness.

**Summary:** This book helps explain that to children- that feeling sad is normal when you lose someone or something important to you.

**Summary:** Sam and his classmates help their teacher grieve for the death of his son. Included are many positive ways of helping a friend mourn such as listening, encouraging the bereaved to cry, planting living memorials.

**Summary:** This story depicts the emotions and memories of an 11-year-old boy whose best friend dies of a bee sting. Especially notable is the realistic treatment of a child's mourning, guilt, and ultimate acceptance that life can and must continue even after a great loss.

**Summary:** Nine-year-old Mandy learns to deal with the accidental death of her father and with her mother's new romance. Throughout the grief cycle, Mandy develops new strengths and new kinds of happiness.

**Summary:** Because of a superstition, 9-year-old Kate believes she has just 1 week to live. She discusses her fear of death with a spritely elderly aunt who advises her to live her last week to its fullest.

**Summary:** An animal fantasy about the special relationship between Charlotte the spider and Wilbur, the pig. Charlotte helps Wilbur see that despite her death, she will live on in Wilbur's memories.
Nine Ways to Evaluate Children's Books that Address Disability as Part of Diversity (Information from CircleofInclusion.org)

1) Check The Illustrations

**Look for Stereotypes.** A stereotype is an over-simplified generalization about a particular group, race, or sex, which usually carries derogatory implications. Some common stereotypes suggested by Derman-Sparks and the Anti-Bias Curriculum Task Force (1989) include Native-Americans as being naked and savage or “Primitive” crafts persons; or African-Americans as being happy-go-lucky, watermelon-eating Sambos or fat, eye-rolling “mammys.” Children's books should not help support or perpetuate any stereotypes. Consequently, books that represent children with disabilities should do so in ways that do not promote stereotypes. For example, look for books that show children with disabilities in the same classes as their non-disabled peers, participating in the same activities as their peers.

**Look for Tokenism.** The term tokenism was originally created in order to address the issue of how minorities are represented in books. For example, in evaluating tokenism in a book, one would look to see if all minority faces appeared stereotypically alike or if they are depicted as genuine individuals with distinctive features. In the same respect, it is desirable that children with disabilities be represented in books as genuine individuals with distinctive features. It is appropriate to have a child with a physical disability in a wheelchair or using another type of adaptive device as long as the reader also views the child as being a distinctive individual with his/her own personality and characteristics.

**Who's Doing What?** The illustrations should depict children with disabilities in leadership and action roles. The children with disabilities should not only be active observers while the children without disabilities are always the “doers.”

2) Check The Story Line

**Standard for Success.** To gain acceptance and approval, the child with a disability should not have to exhibit extraordinary qualities, such as exceptional memory or math skills. The child should not have to walk or run with his friends to be accepted by them.

**Resolution of Problems.** Look at how the problems in the story are presented, conceived and resolved. The person with the disability should not be considered part of the “the problem.” When appropriate, the reasons for the disabilities should be explained to the child.

**Role of Person With a Disability.** The achievements of the person with a disability should be based on his/her own initiative and intelligence. This story should be able to be told in the same way even if the main character did not have a disability.

3) Look at the Lifestyles

If the person with the disability is depicted as “different,” no negative value judgments should be implied. The illustrations and text should offer genuine insights into another person.

4) Weigh the Relationships Between People
The people without disabilities should not possess all of the power, take all of the leadership roles, and make all of the important decisions. The children with disabilities should not only function in supportive or, subservient roles. Neither should the reverse be true. There should be a clear balance of roles.

5) Consider the Effects on a Child’s Self-Image

Norms should not be established which limit any child’s aspirations and self-concept. By continuously bombarding a child with a disability with images of “typical” children as the ultimate in beauty, cleanliness, and virtue, we are harming the child’s self-image. In each story, there should be at least one or more persons with whom a child with a disability can readily identify as a positive and constructive role model.

6) Consider the Author’s or Illustrator’s Background

Analyze the biographical material on the jacket flap or the back of the book. Look for qualities that the author or illustrator may have that would help them understand and contribute knowledgeably to a specific theme or topic.

7) Check Out the Author’s Perspective

No author can be entirely objective. All authors write from a cultural as well as from a personal context. Children’s books in the past have traditionally come from authors who were white, non-disabled, and who were members of the middle class, with the result being a single ethnocentric perspective dominated children’s literature in the United States (Derman-Sparks & the A.B.C. Task Force, 1989). With any book in question, read carefully to determine whether the direction of the author’s perspective substantially weakens or strengthens the value of his/her written work.

8) Watch for Loaded Words

A word is loaded when it has offensive overtones. Examples of loaded adjectives specific to children with disabilities are “slow,” “retarded,” “lazy,” “docile,” “backwards,” “crazy,” “feeble-minded,” “cripple,” “idiot,” “deaf,” “dumb,” and sometimes “special.”

9) Look at the Copyright Date and Target Age

There are not many books written about children with disabilities. The limited number that are available are dated and use language that is not “people first” (a child with autism, instead of an autistic child) or may now be considered offensive, such as the current term “retarded.” Most newer books use “people first” language, however, make sure to check all books for people first language because some authors may not be as familiar with the importance of its use. Some books state that they are intended for very young children, but in fact they are not written for children as young as the authors claim. Before reading a book to a class make sure it is developmentally appropriate for the children to whom you are going to read it.

Adapted from:
Sources

This Bibliography is used as a reference. Sources for all information including book titles, publishers, and all summaries, were taken from the resources below.

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Barnes and Noble Internet Website:
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http://ericec.org/fact/kidbooks.html

Special Needs Project:
http://www.specialneeds.com/booklist.asp?id=10&cat=Children%27s+Books

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http://www.ala.org/ala/awardsbucket/schneideraward/bibliography.htm

San Francisco Public Library – Page Title, Yes, We Can! Books about children living with all kinds of disabilities.
http://sfpl.lib.ca.us/sfplonline/kids/booklists/yeswecan.htm

DisabilityWorld.org:
http://www.disabilityworld.org/Aug-Sept2000/Children/unique.html

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http://www.nichcy.org/pubs/bibliog/bib5txt.htm

The Pediatric Network:
http://www.pediatricnetwork.org/store/life/childbooksillness.htm

Children's Disabilities Information, ChildrensDisabilities.info:
http://www.childrensdisabilities.info

Guides to Children's Literature about Disabilities, UCanDo.org:
http://www.ucando.org/guides.html

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