

Disability-Inclusive Children's Books



Disability-inclusive children's books

Sensory perception disabilities

Books on this list represent varying sensory perception abilities including sensory processing disorders and sensory differences (hearing, vision, touch, etc.).

Early grades



[Riley the Rainbow Unicorn and Their Magical Hearing Adventure](#)

Andrew O'Brien, Meghan O'Brien | All Ages | Hearing differences

This is a book about acceptance! Acceptance for those who are different is needed now more than ever. Your kids will love the playful pictures while learning that not everyone who is different is scary. You and Riley will go on a great adventure to help their hearing. Read a long to find out how Riley improves her hearing and is supported by their friends. Happy reading!



Ears, Ears, Everywhere!

Hayley Lodhi, Mina Basic Stankovic (I) | Age 0-8 | Hearing impairment

Ears, Ears, Everywhere! is a delightful journey into the colorful world of giggles and glee, where no two ears are quite the same. Some are big, some are small, some need a little help to hear, and all are celebrated for their unique charm.

In this heartwarming tale, children with hearing impairments, hearing aids, and the use of sign language are embraced as part of the vibrant fabric of our world. Whether they speak with their hands held high in the air or with the help of a whisper wizard, these diverse ears find their own special ways to connect with friends.

Through playful rhymes and vibrant illustrations, Ears, Ears, Everywhere! reminds us that our differences are what make the world a beautiful place. It's a celebration of diversity, inclusion, and the wonderful colors of uniqueness that lights up our world. Readers are invited into a world of celebration, diversity, and inclusion. This heartwarming tale showcases the uniqueness of each individual, particularly children with hearing impairments, hearing aids, and those who communicate through sign language.

DIVERSITY

Representation: Showcases diverse characters, promoting inclusivity and representation.

Cultural Understanding: Exposure to various cultures, fostering cultural understanding and appreciation.

Empathy Development: Encourages empathy by portraying diverse experiences and perspectives.

Real-world Reflection: Reflects the diverse world children live in, making the story relatable to diverse audiences.

Educational Value: Provides opportunities for learning and understanding differences in backgrounds, abilities, and cultures.

Promotion of Acceptance: Teaches acceptance of differences and celebrates diversity.

Broadened Perspective: Exposes children to different viewpoints, expanding their worldview.

Positive Identity Formation: Helps children from diverse backgrounds see themselves positively represented in literature.

WAYS TO USE

In the Classroom: Teachers can promote diversity and inclusion by using this book to spark discussions about differences, encouraging empathy and understanding among students.

School Libraries: Librarians can make this book readily available, fostering an environment where children can explore and appreciate diversity through reading.

Speech and Language Therapy: Speech therapists can use this book as a resource to engage and inspire children with hearing impairments, helping them feel more comfortable and confident.

Parents and Caregivers: Families can read this book together, opening up conversations about diversity, acceptance, and celebrating differences.

Community Read-Alouds: Local community centers or book clubs can organize read-aloud sessions with this book, promoting inclusivity and acceptance.

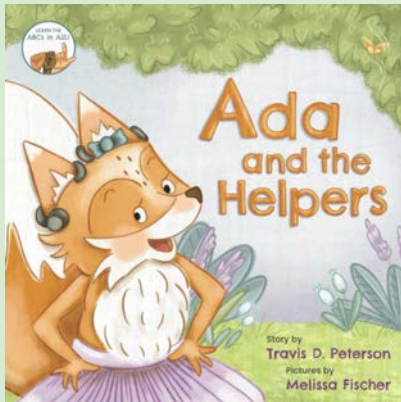
Hearing-Impaired Support Groups: This book can serve as a valuable tool in support groups, offering children and parents a positive perspective on hearing impairments.

Elementary School Assemblies: Schools can host assemblies or events centered around the themes of diversity and inclusion, featuring readings of "Ears, Ears, Everywhere!" to inspire students.

Diverse Book Collections: Libraries, both in schools and communities, can include this book in their diverse book collections, encouraging readers of all ages to appreciate differences and embrace inclusivity.

Ears, Ears, Everywhere! is not just a book, it's a celebration of the beautiful fabric of diversity that enriches our world. Through its pages, children learn the importance of acceptance, empathy, and the value of being uniquely themselves.

Discover more at HayleyLodhi.com or on social media @HayleyLodhiStudio, @HayleyLodhiAuthor



[Ada and the Helpers](#)

Travis D. Peterson, Melissa Fischer (I) | Age 1-7 | Hearing impairment

Winner of the 2022 Northern Lights Book Awards in the Concept Book category!

The 2022 Eric Hoffer Award recognizes the significance of Ada and the Helpers as: Grand Prize Finalist

First Horizon Award Finalist (for debut authors)

Honorable Mention in Children's Book Category

"Be bold! Be brave! Let you be you... and let's help others, too!" That's Ada's motto.

Ada is a dancing, deaf fox with cochlear implants who loves to help others. On her way to dance in a talent show one day, she meets three other creatures who are each facing a physical challenge or disability of their own. She decides to help each of her new friends to see past their challenges and discover their natural, God-given strengths. But can they help her in return? Ada's a bit nervous about the talent show!

Will she be able to hear the music clearly?

Will everyone laugh at her?

Pick up a copy of Ada and the Helpers today and follow Ada and her new friends on an exciting new adventure that inspires friendship, helping others, inclusion, and finding your strengths. Plus, your child can learn the ASL alphabet at the same time! The rhyming nature of the story is welcoming for hearing kids, but is especially helpful for young children who are hard-of-hearing.

As an adult, you'll love the surprise ending that brings all the nostalgic feels for your inner 80's child!

This children's book comes with some special features, including:

One word spelled out using the American Sign Language alphabet on each spread of the story (14 in all) in diverse skin tones so that you can help your child practice learning the ASL alphabet and begin fingerspelling.

An ASL alphabet chart in the back of the book. By the way, the hardcover edition has a double-sided dust jacket that also serves as an American sign language alphabet poster, perfect for hanging in your child's bedroom or in the classroom!

The book also introduces three of the ling sounds used in the Ling Six Sound Test, which is used to help audiologists, special educators or teachers of the deaf, and parents or hard-of-hearing children assess whether or not the child can hear and

recognize the full range of vocal sound. By helping your child associate these phonics with the characters in the book, it becomes easier for you to practice these sounds with them.

Masterfully illustrated by fine artist Melissa Fischer, Ada and the Helpers is a beautiful book that your child will want to read over and over again. Whether they are deaf or hard-of-hearing and use hearing aids or cochlear implants to assist them, or you simply want to introduce the concept of sign language to your hearing children, Ada and her friends will be instant favorites in your household or classroom!



Rebekah's Superpower!

Emma Bilyk | Age 1+ | Hearing impairment

A children's book to help deaf and hard of hearing kiddos be empowered and have language for self advocacy. Rebekah is a little girl born with microtia and wears a BAHA to help her hear. Hearing aids give you super powers!



DK Braille: Shapes

DK | Age 2-5 | Visual Impairment

Where is the square?

DK Braille: Shapes helps children learn, find, and remember their shapes through die-cut shapes, embossed images, and braille or large format text in this special book designed specifically for blind or visually impaired readers.

Feel the difference between a circle and triangle as the rhyming story guides readers through the pages, each page making information easy to understand for the tactile reader.

DK Braille: Shapes is a unique book that helps young blind or visually impaired readers learn their shapes in a format specifically designed for them.

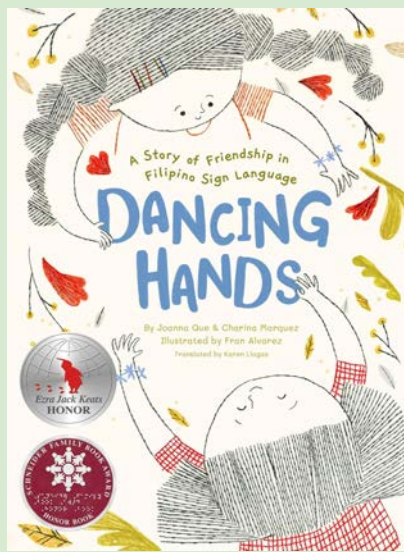
A flagship series of high-quality, custom books with braille and tactile images for blind and partially sighted children, or sighted children with blind parents. DK Braille books combine uncontracted Unified English Braille and large type with high-contrast colors, embossed images, and tactile cutout shapes for children to feel with their fingers. The combination of text alongside the braille enables sighted parents to share the reading experience with visually impaired children, and for sighted children to share with their visually impaired parents.



Petie and Juno Learn About Blindness

Emma Hyson, Courtney Knoch | Age 2-8 | Visual impairment

Petie and Juno Learn About Blindness is Petie’s debut into the world! She meets Juno the Jaguar, a new friend playing on the playground near her house. Juno is special though, and does things a little differently at the playground. Juno helps Petie learn about being blind and in turn, Petie helps Juno realize that in spite of her differences, it will all be okay!



Dancing Hands: A Story of Friendship in Filipino Sign Language

Joanna Que, Charina Marquez, Karen Llagas | Age 3-5 | Hearing impairment

Read the world to change the world! This artful picture book about friendship and sign language, originally published in the Philippines in concert with nonprofit Room to Read, is beautifully revised for this global edition.

Our new neighbors’ hands are dancing. Their hands move as if to music. What are they saying to each other?

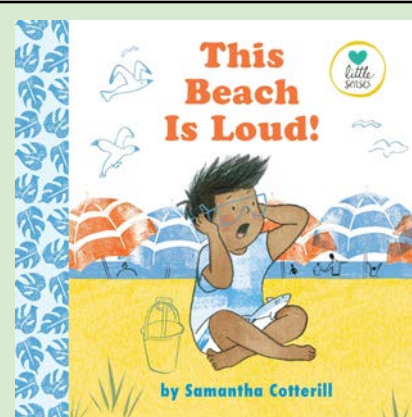
Sam’s new neighbors’ hands make graceful movements she doesn’t recognize, and she wonders what they are saying. Soon she meets her new neighbor, Mai, who teaches Sam some Filipino Sign Language. Along the way, they both discover the joys of making a new friend, a best friend.

This sweet and perceptive picture book by authors Joanna Que and Charina Marquez tells the story of two girls as they learn to communicate with each other. With playful illustrations that celebrate the beautiful movements of sign language, back matter discussing sign languages around the world, and endpapers teaching all the signs used in the book, Dancing Hands conveys the shy and fumbling experience of making friends and overcoming language barriers.

SIGN LANGUAGE IN A STORY: One of the only children’s books about sign language that is not centered on instruction, this beautifully illustrated friendship story is the perfect way to introduce kids to topics around deafness, hearing or speech impairment, and global sign languages.

PROMOTES EMPATHY: As readers follow Mai and Sam’s blossoming friendship, they will be encouraged to be open to new experiences. This thoughtful book emphasizes the importance of trying to understand each person we encounter and the beautiful connections we can form when we overcome perceived barriers.

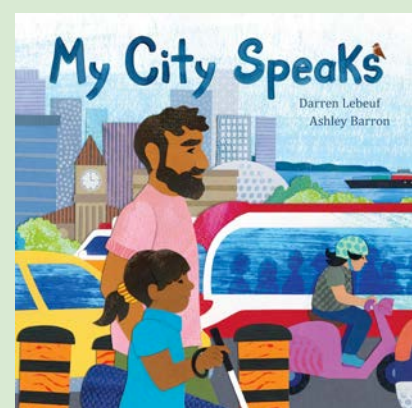
EDUCATIONAL EXTRAS: The book includes additional content that speaks to the history of Filipino and American sign languages, as well as sign languages around the world.



[This Beach is Loud!](#)

Samantha Cotterill | Age 3-5 | Hypersensitivity to noise

When a young boy is overwhelmed by all the sights, sounds, and sensations at the beach, his father gently reminds him of tricks that help calm him.



[My City Speaks](#)

Darren Lebeuf, Ashley Barron (I) | Age 3-7 | Visual impairment

A young girl, who is visually impaired, finds much to celebrate as she explores the city she loves.

A young girl and her father spend a day in the city, her city, traveling to the places they go together: the playground, the community garden, the market, an outdoor concert. As they do, the girl describes what she senses in delightfully precise, poetic detail. Her city, she says, “rushes and stops, and waits and goes.” It “pitters and patters, and drips and drains.” It “echoes” and “trills,” and is both “smelly” and “sweet.” Her city also speaks, as it “dings and dongs, and rattles and roars.” And sometimes, maybe even some of the best times, it just listens.

Darren Lebeuf uses his keen observational skills as an award-winning photographer to poetically capture sensory experiences in this charming ode to city life. The rhythmic, lyrical text makes for an appealing read-aloud. Ashley Barron’s vividly hued cut-paper collage illustrations add compelling visual interest to the text’s descriptions. Though the main character is visually impaired, she travels around the city and enthusiastically enjoys its many offerings, and actively contributes to the lyrical bustle of city life by putting on a violin performance in the park. The author’s use of limited but evocative language can help children develop an aesthetic awareness and can serve as a perfect jumping-off point for children to use their senses to specifically describe, and appreciate, their own surroundings. The story and illustrations were reviewed by a blind sensitivity reader.



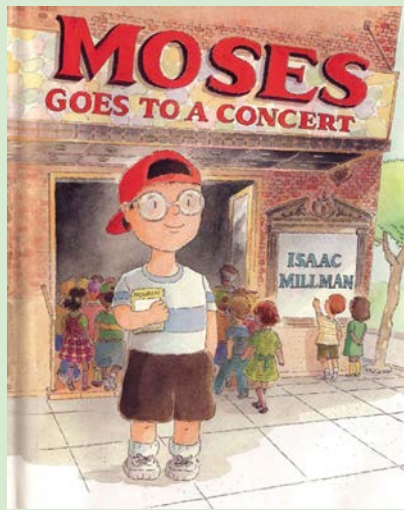
[Next Door](#)

Deborah Kerbel | Age 3-7 | Hearing impairment

A boy has some unexpected encounters in his neighborhood in this wordless book about celebrating differences and building bridges.

In this wordless picture book, a Deaf boy and his mother enjoy a walk through their community. Together, they greet their neighbors, stop by the playground, spy a bird's nest in a tree and buy cookies at the grocery store. Later, they visit their new neighbors, a woman and her daughter, who have only recently immigrated from another country. Although the girl is shy, and the two kids speak different languages — American Sign Language (ASL) and Arabic — find a way to communicate and become fast friends.

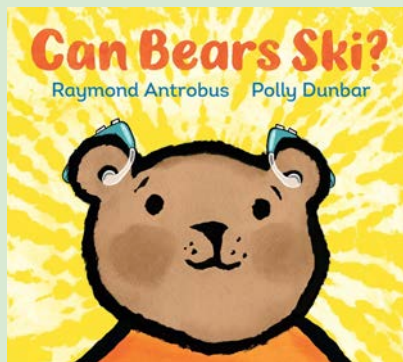
This sweet story by critically acclaimed author Deborah Kerbel explores the art of appreciating the world and the people around us and finding points of connection. Deaf illustrator Isaac Liang lends his lived experience to the visual story, choosing details and perspectives that reveal the world as it's experienced by the boy. At the heart of the story is a timely message about breaking down barriers and finding common ground, no matter our differences. Wordless picture books engage children's attention to detail as they follow the narrative of the story in the pictures, building their visual literacy and critical thinking skills. This book has curriculum connections to social studies lessons on community building and immigration, as well as to the character education values of empathy and kindness. It also models the practice of welcoming newcomers to our communities. A few ASL signs are demonstrated and translated within the story.



[Moses Goes to a Concert](#)

Isaac Millman | Age 3-7 | Hearing impairment

Moses loves playing his new drum. Even though he is deaf, he can feel the vibrations when he plays. One day, Moses's class goes to a concert. The teacher then says that he knows the percussionist and that she is deaf as well!

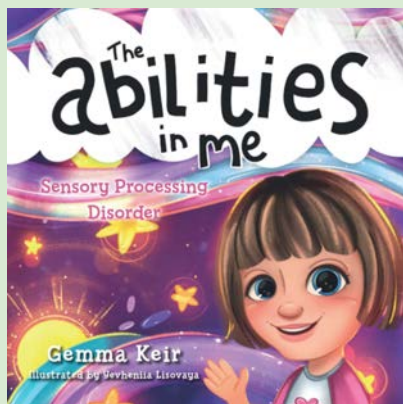


[Can Bears Ski?](#)

Raymond Antrabus | Age 3-7 | Hearing impairment

Is Little Bear ignoring his friends when they say hi, or is something else going on? A discovery opens new doors in a tale that will delight kids with deafness and all children learning to navigate their world.

Little Bear feels the world around him. He feels his bed rumble when Dad Bear wakes him up in the morning. He feels the floor shake when his teacher stomps to get his attention. But something else is missing, like when his friends tell jokes that he isn't sure he understands, or when all around him Little Bear hears the question, "Can bears ski?" Then, one day, Dad Bear takes him to see an "aud-i-olo-gist," and Little Bear learns that he has been experiencing deafness and will start wearing hearing aids. Soon he figures out what that puzzling refrain is: "Can you hear me?" Little Bear's new world is LOUD and will take some getting used to, but with the love and support of Dad Bear, he will find his way. In this lyrical picture book, award-winning creators Raymond Antrabus and Polly Dunbar draw on their own experiences to tell Bear's story.



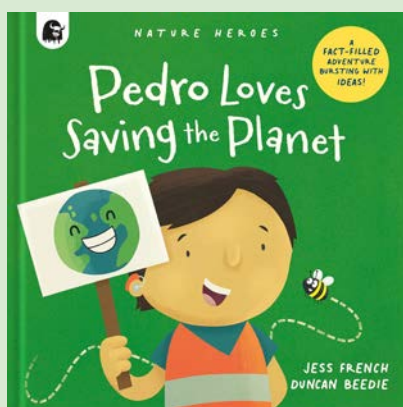
[The Abilities in Me: Sensory Processing Disorder](#)

Gemma Keir, Yevheniia Lisovaya (I) | Age 3-8 | Sensory processing disorder

This picture book is dedicated to children who have Sensory Processing Disorder, also known as SPD. Explore the day in the life of a young girl with Sensory Processing through bright, colourful illustrations and text. Perfect for teachers, parents and children alike, this book will bring awareness of the condition and teach children how to be supportive and be kind.

This is the 19th book released from The abilities in me book series. Our collection of books show how each child can celebrate their abilities within their disability, find acceptance and create awareness to those around them. Our picture books are aimed for children between the ages of 3-8 years.

All profits made will be donated to The Abilities In Me Foundation



[Pedro Loves Saving the Planet](#)

Jess French, Duncan Beedie (I) | Age 3-8 | Hearing impairment

Pedro Loves the Planet tells the fact-filled story of day in the life of a boy who is passionate about the environment.

Pedro spends the day at his school eco club's forest cabin where he learns about electric cars, plants some vegetable seeds and encourages his friends to think of creative ways to recycle.

Follow Pedro as he shares his love of the environment – learn about renewable energy, discover fun ways to save water and find out what else you can do to help protect our planet.

With an engaging and lively narrative from Jess French and fun, warm illustrations from Duncan Beedie this book will help ignite a love and appreciation for nature, right on our doorsteps.

The Nature Heroes series focuses on a group of friends who are passionate about nature and the great outdoors. Each book features a different child who has a favourite topic that they are fascinated by: Billy Loves Birds, Bella Loves Bugs, Ava Loves Rescuing Animals and Pedro Loves the Planet!



[My Friend Kiara](#)

Kameel Vohra, Alvin Adhi (I) | Age 3-8 | Hearing impairment

Adventure with Anika as she discovers that there's lots to learn about disabilities.

Anika's aunt Kiara is smart, funny, intelligent, and the coolest girl she knows. When the power goes out, she discovers something different and exciting about Kiara. She's not sure how to react at first but quickly realizes that different isn't sad or strange—it's just different!

This rhyming picture book will help kids learn about disabilities, show them that they're not scary, and teach them how to behave when they meet someone who has a disability. It helps overcome common myths and shows how a person with disabilities is just like everybody else.

My Friend Kiara features a female protagonist with hearing disabilities. It is a great way to begin discussions with children on any type of disability, physical or Intellectual. The story is based on how the author explained to his own children the beauty in our differences, and how people with disabilities are more than just their disability. It is complete with fun activities to learn sign language and help explore children's concept of themselves.

Children are naturally aware of the differences between themselves and people they meet. The Anika Books series helps kids to be aware, understand and appreciate what makes everyone different. Encouraging them to discuss and celebrate the differences they discover with their parents and teachers.

In My Friend Kiara, you'll find:

Exciting and colorful imagery that captures kids attention

Rhyming language that's fun and easy to read aloud

Activities to help keep children engaged through the story

Questions to prompt understanding and discussion on diversity

A valuable addition to school, church, and home libraries

A perfect picture book for children 7 and under



Sky the Deaf Home Run Hero

Mickey Carolan, Adisa Fazlovic (I) | Age 3-8 | Hearing impairment

A deaf boy's baseball superpower gives him courage to turn bullies into friends in a heartwarming picture book.

Young Sky is a boy who was born deaf, but it doesn't stop him from doing what he loves most: playing baseball. Eager and determined, he works hard on his skills until he notices that, swing after swing, every ball is hit, soaring out of the ballpark like an eagle... Sky has a superpower! Not hearing enables him to focus on the ball and hit home runs with ease. But when the bullies try to bring him down, baseball gives him the courage to face them and win them over, and "with every home run, a bully becomes a friend."

Author Mickey Carolan did not have to look far for inspiration for this uplifting story. As a hearing child raised by two deaf parents, he witnessed firsthand the challenges that face some deaf children, namely being bullied for being different. It became Carolan's mission to create a book in which a deaf child can see themselves in the story and how they can make a positive difference. In the United States alone, there are an estimated 300,000 deaf or hearing-impaired school-aged children, according to the National Association of the Deaf.

With Sky, the Deaf Home Run Hero: A Lesson in Courage, Carolan brings a story of bravery and friendship to families and early educators of both the deaf and hearing communities. This is the first book in the Deaf Kids Can series.



Bonnie and the Deaf Bake Squad

Mickey Carolan, Adisa Fazlovic (I) | Age 3-9 | Hearing impairment

A Deaf girl's friends encourage her to be confident in her baking skills as she enters a baking competition in a heartwarming picture book.

Bonus pages include Meet Bonnie, inclusion discussion questions, and nine ASL signs taught by the Deaf Bake Squad characters.

This book is ideal for children ages 3-9 and Pre K-3rd grade.

Step into the delightful world of young Bonnie, a vibrant and determined Deaf girl whose passion for baking knows no bounds! In this heartwarming picture book, Bonnie and the Deaf Bake Squad: A Lesson in Confidence. Follow Bonnie's inspiring journey as she embarks on a thrilling baking competition with the dream of claiming victory!

Born Deaf, Bonnie has never let her physical disability hinder her dreams. Supported by her loving and compassionate friends from the renowned Michigan School for the Deaf, Bonnie dives headfirst into preparing her show-stopping entry for the prestigious Tuscola County Fair. With unwavering determination and a sprinkle of creativity, Bonnie puts her heart and soul into each delectable creation, all the while proving that being Deaf is no barrier to success.

Yet, as the competition draws nearer, Bonnie's excitement is tinged with doubts and fears. Will she be able to stand tall against her hearing peers? The pressure seems insurmountable, but that's when the incredible Deaf Bake Squad steps in to lend their

unwavering support. As a tight-knit group of talented bakers, they become Bonnie's pillar of strength, reminding her that her abilities know no bounds.

In *Bonnie and the Deaf Bake Squad*, readers will be treated to an array of stunning, full-color illustrations that bring the characters and their baking creations to life. These vivid visuals not only enhance the reading experience but also serve as an excellent opportunity for families and early educators from both the Deaf and hearing communities to engage in meaningful discussions about inclusivity, empathy, and the power of embracing differences.

This enchanting picture book marks the second installment in the Deaf Kids Can series, a collection of stories that celebrate the unique capabilities and talents of Deaf children. Much like its predecessor, *Sky, the Deaf Home Run Hero* this latest adventure delivers a powerful message: that no dream is too big when nurtured with love, support, and unwavering determination.

As readers turn each page, they'll witness Bonnie's growth, not only as a baker but also as an individual who learns the true essence of confidence. Every setback is met with resilience, every challenge with a dash of optimism, and every moment of doubt with the unwavering belief in herself. The book serves as an empowering reminder to young minds that embracing one's passions and forging meaningful friendships can lead to extraordinary accomplishments.

Join Bonnie and her beloved Deaf Bake Squad on this unforgettable journey, where the aroma of freshly baked goodies mingles with the scent of triumph, and the warmth of friendship melts away any self-doubt. *Bonnie and the Deaf Bake Squad: A Lesson in Confidence* is a tale that will leave hearts brimming with hope, and souls inspired to pursue their dreams without fear or hesitation.

In this delightful narrative, the Deaf community's resilience and strength shine brightly, becoming a beacon of inspiration for all readers. As you savor each page of this delightful tale, you'll discover that the bonds of friendship transcend barriers, proving that together, we can achieve greatness.

Bonnie and the Deaf Bake Squad is a must-read picture book that will warm your heart and leave you with a newfound appreciation for the limitless possibilities that lie ahead.



[Hopping into Sign Language](#)

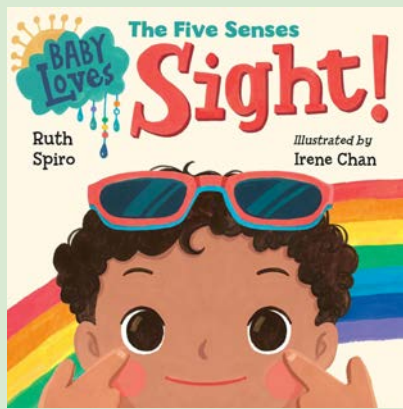
MT Bibum | Age 3+ | Hearing impairment

In "The Bunny friendship". Join the Easter Bunny on a heartwarming adventure as he meets a new friend and learns the importance of inclusion and friendship. When the Easter Bunny stumbles upon a deaf bunny, he realizes that he feels left out and decides to learn sign language to communicate with him. Together, they embark on an exciting journey filled with egg hunts, carrot gardens, and plenty of fun. Along the way, they discover that friendship goes beyond words and that everyone deserves to be included, no matter their differences.

In "The Mighty Monarch," readers follow the story of a butterfly who sees the world in a unique way. Although she is deaf and cannot hear the sounds of the meadow around her, she uses her other senses to navigate and explore her environment. When danger threatens the meadow and its inhabitants, it is up to her to use her strengths and bravery to save the day. This heartwarming tale celebrates the power of

differences and reminds readers that anyone, no matter how small or different, can make a big impact.

"The Bunny Friendship Story" and "The Mighty Monarch" is a charming and beautifully illustrated children's book that teaches young readers the value of inclusion, diversity, empathy, understanding, and acceptance. With its relatable characters and engaging storyline, this book is perfect for children ages 3-8 who are learning about diversity and friendship. The easy-to-read text and vibrant illustrations will captivate readers and spark their imagination. This book is a must-have addition to any children's library and makes an ideal gift for Easter or any occasion.



Baby Loves the Five Senses: Sight!

Ruth Spiro, Irene Chan (I) | Age 3+ | Vision differences

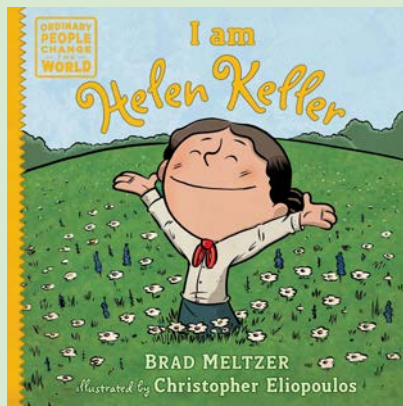
Explores the science behind the sense of sight, and technical advances that can help people with impaired vision.



Baby Loves the Five Senses: Hearing!

Ruth Spiro, Irene Chan (I) | Age 3+ | Hearing differences

Explores the science behind the sense of hearing, and technical advances that can help people with impaired hearing.



[I am Helen Keller](#)

Brad Meltzer, Christopher Eliopoulos (I) | Age 4-7 | Visual and hearing impairment

The seventh addition to this New York Times bestselling series spotlights Helen Keller and shows kids that obstacles can create heroes

When Helen Keller was very young, she got a rare disease that made her deaf and blind. Suddenly, she couldn't see or hear at all, and it was hard for her to communicate with anyone. But when she was six years old, she met someone who change her life forever: her teacher, Annie Sullivan. With Miss Sullivan's help, Helen learned how to speak sign language and read Braille. Armed with the ability to express herself, Helen grew up to become a social activist, leading the fight for disabled people and so many other causes.

This friendly, fun biography series inspired the PBS Kids TV show Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum. One great role model at a time, these books encourage kids to dream big. Included in each book are:

- A timeline of key events in the hero's history
- Photos that bring the story more fully to life
- Comic-book-style illustrations that are irresistibly adorable
- Childhood moments that influenced the hero
- Facts that make great conversation-starters
- A virtue this person embodies: Helen Keller's resourcefulness was key to her success.

You'll want to collect each book in this dynamic, informative series!



[Mara Hears in Style](#)

Terri Clemmons, Lucy Rogers (I) | Age 4-7 | Hearing impairment

Mara takes on the world with her flashy purple hearing aids and sassy, hot pink earmolds.

Mara's first day at her new school is filled with ups and downs surrounding her hearing aids: her teacher doesn't remember to turn on her microphone, the lunchroom is too chaotic for lip-reading, and she keeps reading the same question over and over on her classmates' lips: "What's in her ears?" After a morning spent navigating these challenges, Mara makes a connection on the playground and finds that her hearing aid superpowers are perfect for making new friends.

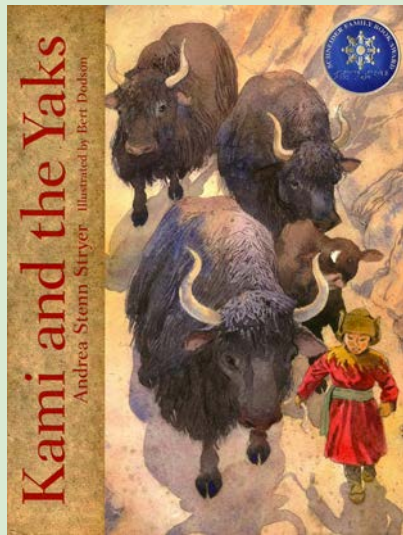
Accessible and engaging, Mara Hears in Style will encourage readers to respect hearing differences and inspire kids who worry about making new friends. The book is filled with American Sign Language depictions--including a full alphabet spread--so readers can sign alongside Mara as they discover new ways to bridge communication gaps in their own communities.



[Splish, Splat!](#)

Alexis Domney, Alice Crawford (I) | Age 4-8 | Hearing impairment

Colin's mom has hired Heather and Molly to paint his room. They are deaf, and chat with their hands using sign while they paint Colin's room, leading to a delightful speckled effect on the walls.

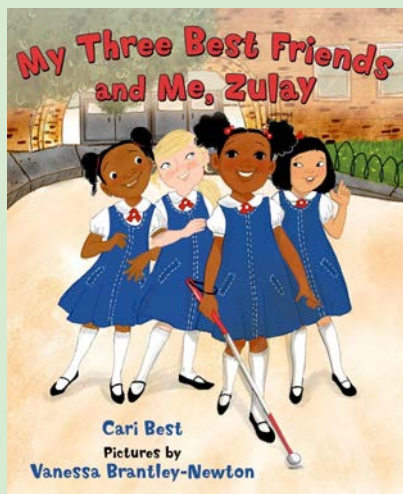


[Kami and the Yaks](#)

Andrea Stenn Stryer, Bert Dodson (I) | Age 4-8 | Hearing impairment

Just before the start of a new trek, a Sherpa family discovers that their yaks are missing. Young Kami, anxious to help his brother and father maintain their livelihood, sets off by himself to find the wandering herd. A spunky deaf child who is unable to speak, Kami attempts to summon the yaks with his shrill whistle. Failing to rout them, he hustles up the steep mountainside to search the yaks' favorite grazing spots. On the way he encounters the rumblings of a fierce storm which quickly becomes more threatening. Surmounting his fear of being alone in the midst of treacherous lightning and hail, Kami uses his heightened sense of observation to finally locate the yaks. Reunited with their animals, the astonished family is once again able to transport their gear and guide the mountain climbers into the majestic terrain.

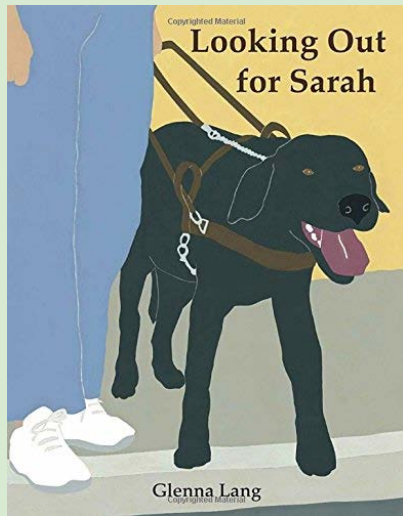
This tender, evocative story of the empowerment of a deaf child received the Schneider Family Book Award of the American Library Association in 2008.



[My Three Best Friends and Me, Zulay](#)

Cari Best, Vanessa Brantley-Newton (I) | Age 4-8 | Visual Impairment

Zulay and her three best friends are all in the same first grade class and study the same things, even though Zulay is blind. When their teacher asks her students what activity they want to do on Field Day, Zulay surprises everyone when she says she wants to run a race. With the help of a special aide and the support of her friends, Zulay does just that.



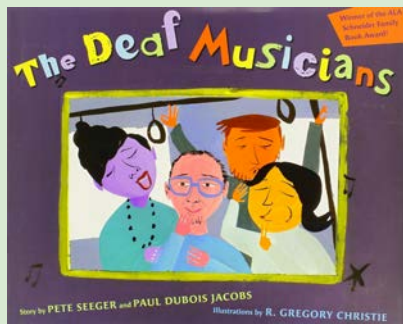
Looking Out for Sarah

Glenna Lang | Age 4-8 | Visual impairment

In this story of friendship, loyalty, and trust, Sarah and her guide dog, Perry, go about their busy day. Perry helps Sarah go shopping, to the post office, and take the train to school. Sarah, a blind musician and teacher, entertains the children and tells them about the time she and Perry walked from Boston to New York to show the world what a blind person can accomplish with the help of a guide dog like Perry.

This true story of an amazing black Labrador retriever and his owner will inspire young readers to follow their own dreams and give them the courage to achieve anything.

Expressive, stylized paintings in bold colors and simple shapes convey the extraordinary relationship between Sarah and Perry.



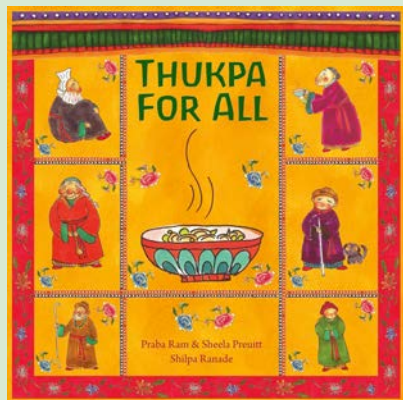
The Deaf Musicians

Pete Seeger, Paul Dubois Jacobs, Gregory Christie | Age 4-8 | Hearing impairment

Poor Lee! He used to be a jazzman who could make the piano go yimbatimba-TANG—zang-zang. But now he's lost his hearing, and the bandleader had to let him go.

So Lee goes to a school for the deaf to learn sign language. There, he meets Max, who used to play the sax. Riding the subway to class, they start signing about all the songs they love. A bass player named Rose joins in and soon they've got a little sign language band. And in no time they're performing for audiences in the subway, night after night.

Living legend and Kennedy Center honoree Pete Seeger, renowned poet Paul DuBois Jacobs, and Coretta Scott King honor winner R. Gregory Christie present a jazzy riff on the power of music, overcoming obstacles, and all the different ways to hear the world. So, who will listen to a deaf musician? Everyone!

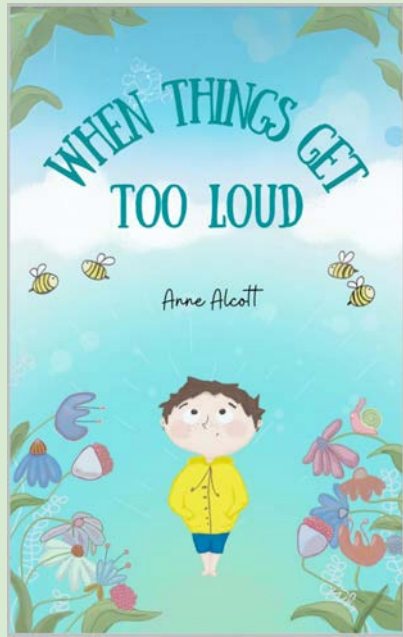


Thukpa for All

Praba Ram, Sheela Preuit | Age 4-8 | Visual Impairment

Tsering can't wait to taste his grandmother's delicious noodle soup. He invites a string of friends and neighbours home. But as preparations get underway, there is a power cut and the house is plunged into darkness. Will Abi be able to put together the much-anticipated thukpa? Told from a blind child's perspective, this tale by Praba Ram and Sheela Preuit is accompanied by Shilpa Ranade's stunning illustrations.

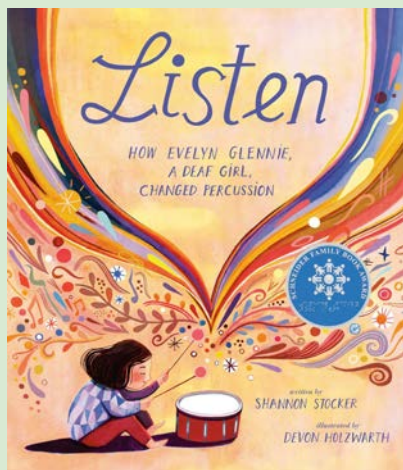
Thukpa for All is featured on the IBBY List of Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities (2019) and in the Outstanding International Books list (2020) by the United States Board on Books for Young People (USBBY).



[When Things Get Too Loud](#)

Anne Alcott | Age 4-9 | Hypersensitivity

When the world gets too much Bo feels his Feel-O-Meter go from 1-10. Noises, smells, sounds, the world can be an overwhelming place. One day, Bo's numbers climb too quickly and all he wants to do is hide. But then he makes a remarkable little friend....When things get too loud is a story about sensory overload, how it feels, what can trigger it and what may help. The Feel-O-Meter provides the child and parents with a visual guide through emotions and the books comes with ideas to cope with overwhelming situations.



[Listen: How Evelyn Glennie, a Deaf Girl, Changed Percussion](#)

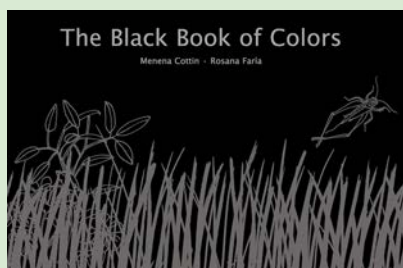
Shannon Stocker | Age 4-9 | Hearing impairment

A gorgeous and empowering picture book biography about Evelyn Glennie, a deaf woman, who became the first full-time solo percussionist in the world. (Cover may vary)

"No. You can't," people said.

But Evelyn knew she could. She had found her own way to listen.

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



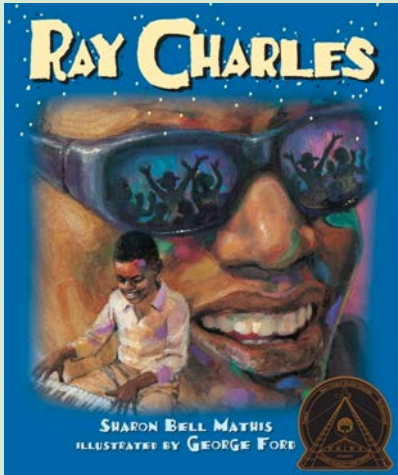
[The Black Book of Colors](#)

Menena Cottin | Age 5-10 | Visual Impairment

A New York Times Book Review choice as one of the 10 Best Illustrated Children's Books of 2008

It is very hard for a sighted person to imagine what it is like to be blind. This groundbreaking, award-winning book endeavors to convey the experience of a person who can only see through his or her sense of touch, taste, smell or hearing.

Raised black line drawings on black paper, which can be deciphered by touch, complement a beautifully written text describing colors through imagery. Braille letters accompany the text so that the sighted reader can begin to imagine what it is like to use Braille to read. A full Braille alphabet at the end of the book can be used to learn more.



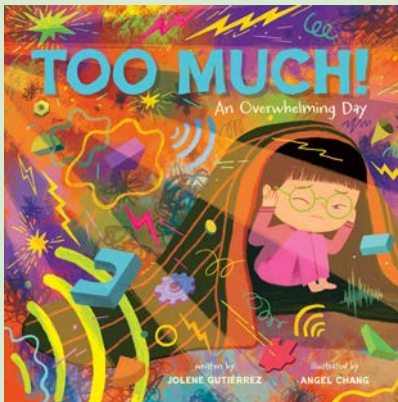
[Ray Charles](#)

Sharon Bell Mathis, George Ford (I) | Age 5-10 | Visual impairment

Coretta Scott King Author Award Winner - American Library Association (ALA)
Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award Winner - American Library Association (ALA)

A beautiful new edition of the award-winning biography of world-famous musician Ray Charles.

As a young boy he fell in love with music, and as a man, the world fell in love with his music. Ray Charles and his soulful, passionate rhythm and melodies have been embraced around the globe for decades. Now, in this beautiful new edition of the award-winning biography, readers can follow Charles from his boyhood, when he lost his sight completely and learned to read and write music in Braille, until the age of 40, when he had become a world-renowned jazz and blues musician. In a new introduction, the author updates Charles' life to the present day.



[Too Much! An Overwhelming Day](#)

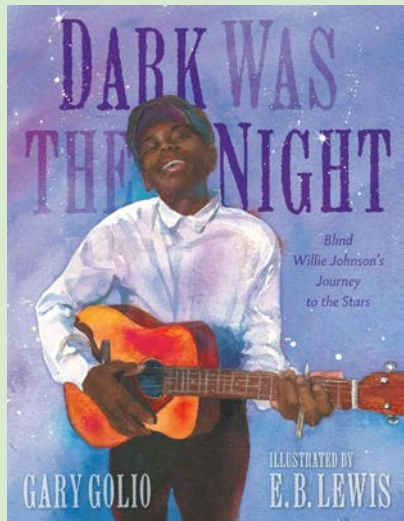
Jolene Gutierrez, Angel Chang (I) | Age 5-6 | Sensory processing disorder

A reassuring rhyming picture book about sensory overload and what you can do when everything is too much

When feelings go on overload,
I pause and breathe
and all is . . . slowed.

Sometimes everything is too much! Too loud, too bright, and all too overwhelming. Writing from her own experience with sensory processing disorder, award-winning teacher-librarian Jolene Gutiérrez's compassionate picture book explores the struggles of a sensorily sensitive child and how they settle themselves. Joined by Angel Chang's beautiful color illustrations, young readers will learn that it's OK if some days are too much.

An extensive author's note to caregivers and educators explores sensory systems, sensory processing issues, and specific information about how to support kids with overstimulated nervous systems as they learn to soothe themselves.



Dark was the Night

Gary Golio, E. B. Lewis (I) | Age 5-8 | Visual Impairment

The poignant story of Blind Willie Johnson--the legendary Texas musician whose song "Dark Was the Night" was included on the Voyager I space probe's Golden Record

Willie Johnson was born in 1897, and from the beginning he loved to sing--and play his cigar box guitar. But his childhood was interrupted when he lost his mother and his sight. How does a blind boy make his way in the world? Fortunately for Willie, the music saved him and brought him back into the light. His powerful voice, combined with the wailing of his slide guitar, moved people. Willie made a name for himself performing on street corners all over Texas. And one day he hit it big when he got a record deal and his songs were played on the radio. Then in 1977, his song--"Dark Was the Night"--was chosen to light up the darkness when it was launched into space on the Voyager I space probe's famous Golden Record. His immortal song was selected for the way it expresses the loneliness humans all feel, while reminding us we're not alone.

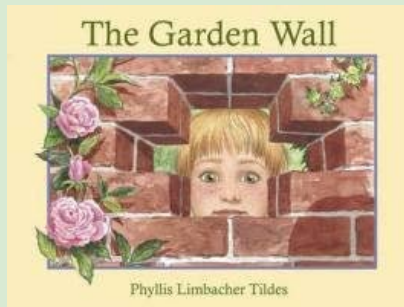


Wild For Winnie

Laura Marx Fitzgerald, Jenny Lovlie (I) | Age 5-8 | Sensory processing challenges

New student Winnie has sensory processing challenges, but her wonderful teacher knows just how to make sure she's a welcome part of the class.

Winnie is the new kid at school, and sometimes she acts kind of wild. Her teacher says to her classmates, "Maybe Winnie feels the world differently than most of us. Why don't we give her world a try?" So that week, when Winnie can't stop monkeying around, the class joins her on the jungle gym. And when she's acting squirrely, they all go nuts on an obstacle course. When Winnie is being a bit of a bear, the whole class burrows into a cozy den for storytime. Soon, with the guidance of their loving teacher, Winnie's classmates realize that sometimes we all feel the world differently, and that's more than okay.

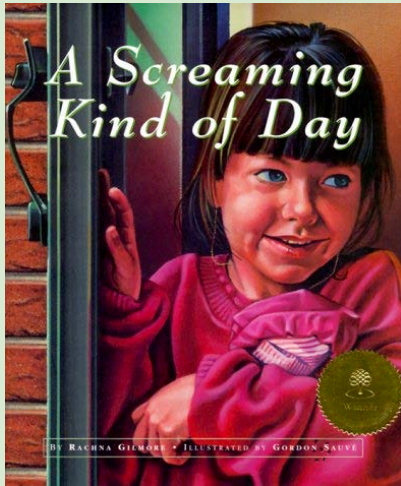


The Garden Wall

Phyllis Limbacher Tildes | Age 5-8 | Hearing impairment

Tim is unhappy about moving to the city and leaving his best friend. He has to attend a strange, new school, and to make things more difficult, his next-door neighbor is a girl who is deaf. How can he be friends with her?

With warmth and wit, award-winning author and illustrator Phyllis Limbacher Tildes weaves a sensitive story that opens a window to the deaf experience. Young readers will discover that true communication begins with an open mind and heart. Written in conjunction with Imagination Stage, Inc.



[A Screaming Kind of Day](#)

Rachna Gilmore, Gordon Sauve (I) | Age 5-8 | Hearing impairment

When Scully, a hearing-impaired girl, slips outside to play in the rain, she is grounded and not allowed to leave the house for the day, but as evening approaches, Scully and her mother share a special moment to melt away the stresses of the day.



[Rescue and Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship](#)

Jessica Kensky, Patrick Downes, Scott Magoon (I) | Age 5-9 | Visual Impairment

“An inspiring tale of compassion and perseverance.” —Booklist (starred review)

Rescue thought he'd grow up to be a Seeing Eye dog, but when he gets the news that he's better suited to being a service dog, he's worried that he's not up to the task. Then he meets Jessica, a girl whose life is turning out differently than the way she'd imagined it, too. Now Jessica needs Rescue by her side to help her accomplish everyday tasks. And it turns out that Rescue can help Jessica see after all: a way forward, together, one step at a time. Based on a real-life partnership, this 2019 Schneider Family Book Award Winner features an endnote from the authors about service dogs, including their real-life best friend and black lab, Rescue.

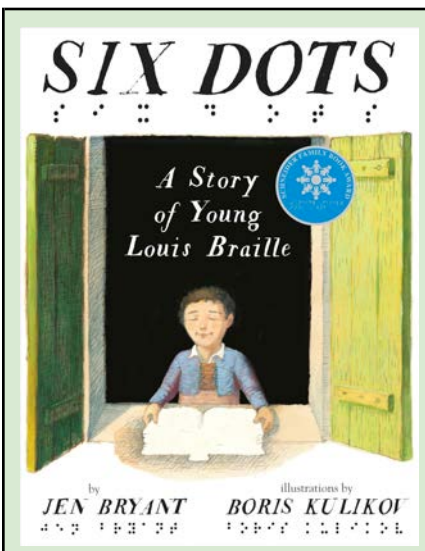


[My Brain is Magic: A Sensory-seeking Celebration](#)

Prasha Sooful | Age 5-9 | Sensory-seeking behaviors

Is your brain magic? Whether your brain buzzes around the room like a bee or tells you to be loud and roar like a lion, celebrate the many things that it can be

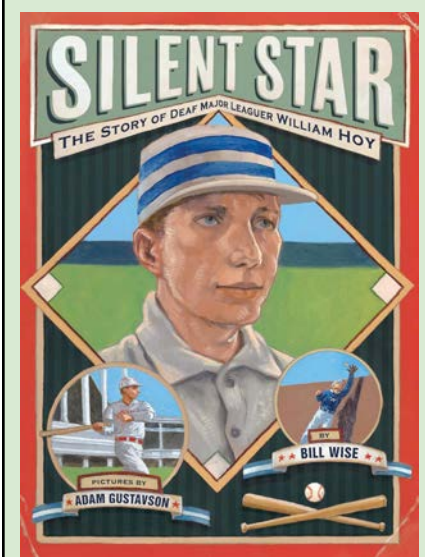
This sensory-seeking celebration shines a light on neurodiversity and sensory processing in a fun and action-packed way for all children to enjoy.



Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille

Jen Bryant, Boris Kulikov (I) | Age 6-10 | Visual Impairment

The story of Louis Braille and how he developed the Braille alphabet system.



Silent Star: The Story of Deaf Major Leaguer William Hoy

William Wise, Adam Gustavson (I) | Age 6-11 | Hearing impairment

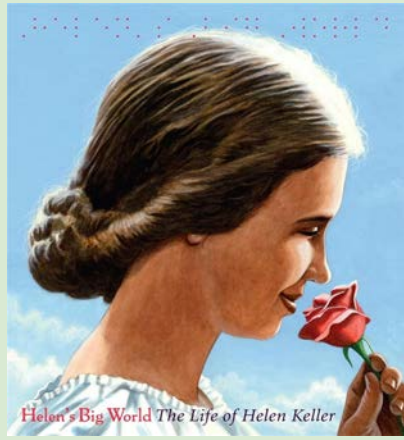
The biography of William Ellsworth Hoy, the first deaf player to have a successful career in professional and Major League baseball.

Now in paperback!

William Hoy loved baseball. Growing up in the 1860s and '70s, he dreamed of one day playing in the major leagues. A far-off fantasy for many boys, fulfilling this dream was even more of a long shot for William, who was deaf.

Striving to find his place in a hearing world, Hoy became a shoemaker. He took pride in his work, but baseball was still his real love. When an amateur team coach saw him playing behind the shoemaker's shop, Hoy dazzled the coach with his hard-hitting skills. Moving from amateur clubs to the minor leagues and eventually to the majors, Hoy proved himself again and again-overcoming obstacles and becoming a star both on and off the baseball diamond.

Silent Star: The Story of Deaf Major Leaguer William Hoy is a tribute to one of the most inspirational figures in baseball history. A talented player with a standout record, Hoy is a shining example that success in life should not be measured by differences but by drive and determination.

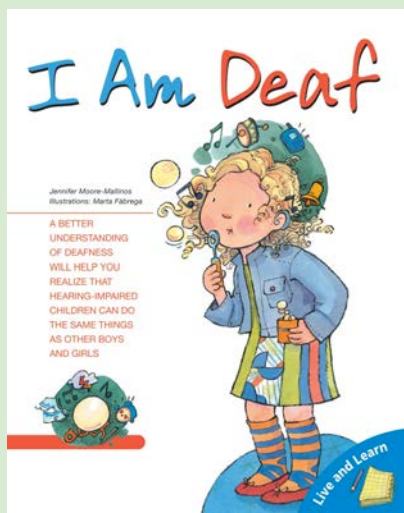


[Helen's Big World: The Life of Helen Keller](#)

Doreen Rappaport, Matt Tavares (I) | Age 6-8 | Visual and hearing impairment

A heartwarming portrait of an unforgettable woman by the critically acclaimed author of Abe's Honest Words and Martin's Big Words.

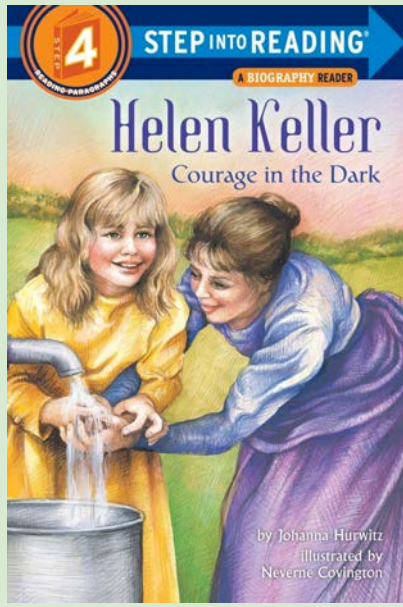
This picture book biography is an excellent and accessible introduction for young readers to learn about one of the world's most influential luminaries. With her signature style of prose laced with stirring quotes, Doreen Rappaport brings to life Helen Keller's poignant narrative. Acclaimed illustrator Matt Tavares beautifully captures the dynamism and verve of Helen Keller's life and legacy, making Helen's Big World an unforgettable portrait of a woman whose vision for innovation and progress changed America—and the world—forever.



[I Am Deaf \(Live and Learn\)](#)

Jennifer Moore-Mallinos | Age 6-8 | Hearing impairment

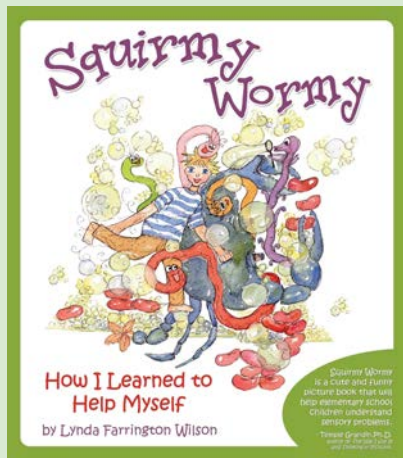
Titles in the Live and Learn series take a child's point of view--especially the view of children who either suffer from some physical challenge or lack self-confidence in going about their everyday activities. This book describes challenges that hearing-impaired children face, and how one child overcomes them to live a normal, happy life. This attractively illustrated picture storybook series encourages kids to understand themselves and overcome problems that have troubled them. Following each story are four pages of suggested activities that relate to the book's theme. A final two-page section offers advice to parents. Live and Learn titles are available in both English and Spanish language editions. This is an English language title.



[Helen Keller: Courage in the Dark](#)

Johanna Hurwitz | Age 6-9 | Visual and hearing impairment

When a childhood illness leaves her blind and deaf, Helen Keller's life seems hopeless indeed. But her indomitable will and the help of a devoted teacher empower Helen to triumph over incredible adversity. This amazing true story is finally brought to the beginner reader level.



[Squirmy Wormy: How I Learned to Help Myself](#)

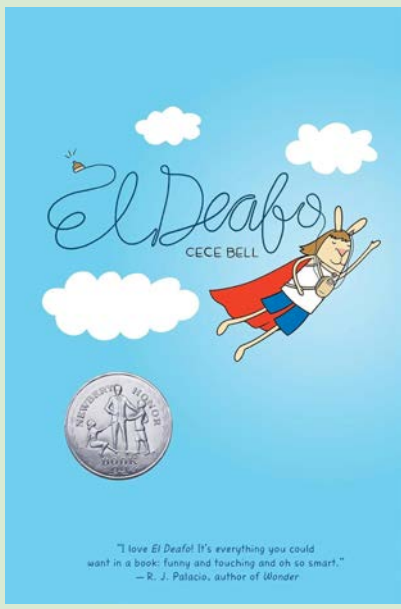
Lynda Farrington Wilson | Age 6-9 | Sensory processing disorder

Many kids have some form of SPD (Sensory Processing Disorder), but who can help them overcome their daily struggles? Wait . . . they can help themselves!

Lynda Farrington Wilson, along with Tyler and some delightful illustrations, help kids help themselves through daily life like no one has before with some great everyday tips and techniques.

Squirmy Wormy is a wonderful little children's book about a boy named Tyler, who has autism and SPD. Together with Tyler, the reader learns about SPD and what easy therapies he can do by himself to feel better. For instance: "I feel like running really fast, run run run! Maybe I just need a s-q-u-e-e-z-e between the couch cushions like a hot dog. Whew! I feel better."

Endorsed by Dr. Temple Grandin, this book is sure to help many children (who perhaps previously did not even know they had SPD) lead calmer, richer lives.



[El Deafo](#)

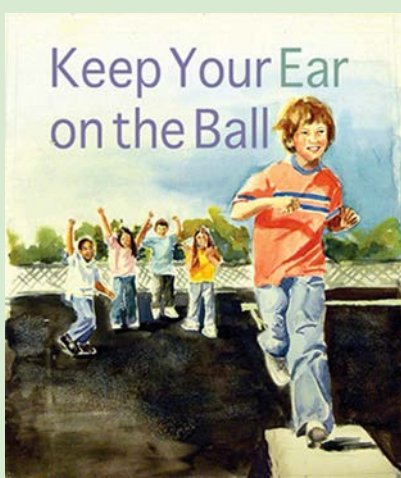
Cece Bell, David Lasky (I) | Age 7-10 | Hearing impairment with hearing aids

Starting at a new school is scary, especially with a giant hearing aid strapped to your chest! At her old school, everyone in Cece's class was deaf. Here, she's different. She's sure the kids are staring at the Phonic Ear, the powerful aid that will help her hear her teacher. Too bad it also seems certain to repel potential friends.

Then Cece makes a startling discovery. With the Phonic Ear, she can hear her teacher not just in the classroom, but anywhere her teacher is in the school—in the hallway . . . in the teacher's lounge . . . in the bathroom! This is power. Maybe even superpower! Cece is on her way to becoming El Deafo, Listener for All.

But the funny thing about being a superhero is that it's just another way of feeling different . . . and lonely. Can Cece channel her powers into finding the thing she wants most: a true friend?

El Deafo is a book that will entertain children, give hearing-impaired children a hero of their own, and challenge others to consider an experience unlike their own. Like other great works for children, it provides the opportunity for young readers to consider how they would act or react in a similar situation, helping to build empathy and understanding through the power of story.



[Keep Your Ear on the Ball](#)

Genevieve Petrillo, Lea Lyon (I) | Age 7-10 | Visual impairment

Even though Davey is blind, he is quite capable—until he tries to play kickball.

After several missed kicks and a trampled base keeper, no one wants Davey on the team. But maybe, just maybe, there's a solution that will work for everybody.

F&P Text Level N

Genevieve Petrillo has been teaching elementary students in New Jersey for 34 years. David DeNotaris was in her classroom many years ago, and this is a true story.

Middle grades



[The Baby-Sitters Club: Jessi's Secret Language](#)

Ann M. Martin, Chan Chau (I) | Age 8-12 | Hearing impairment

Jessi recently moved to Stoneybrook and is one of the newest members of The Baby-sitters Club. She's getting ready to start regularly sitting for the BSC's newest charge, Matt Braddock. Matt has been Deaf since birth and uses sign language to communicate, so Jessi has to use it, too. It's a secret language!

Soon all the neighborhood kids want to learn how to sign, which keeps the BSC busy. Jessi's the busiest of all -- she's preparing for her dance school's big show, plus working on another secret, just for Matt. Will Jessi be able to keep the secret and pull off her performance?



[Skateboard Sonar](#)

Eric Stevens, Gerardo Sandoval (I) | Age 8-14 | Visual impairment

Matty Lyons is a top-notch skateboarder who can do all the coolest tricks. His moves are even more impressive since he's blind. But not everyone is a fan of the talented grinder. During the state's biggest skating competition, former champion Bing Hawtin mocks Matty, saying that a blind kid has no chance to win. But Matty knows something Bing doesn't . . . seeing isn't everything.



[Hello, Universe](#)

Erin Entrada Kelly, Isabel Rozas (I) | Age 9-11 | Hearing impairment

Winner of the Newbery Medal

“A charming, intriguingly plotted novel.”—Washington Post

Newbery Medalist Erin Entrada Kelly’s *Hello, Universe* is a funny and poignant neighborhood story about unexpected friendships.

Told from four intertwining points of view—two boys and two girls—the novel celebrates bravery, being different, and finding your inner bayani (hero). “Readers will be instantly engrossed in this relatable neighborhood adventure and its eclectic cast of misfits.”—Booklist

In one day, four lives weave together in unexpected ways. Virgil Salinas is shy and kindhearted and feels out of place in his crazy-about-sports family. Valencia Somerset, who is deaf, is smart, brave, and secretly lonely, and she loves everything about nature. Kaori Tanaka is a self-proclaimed psychic, whose little sister, Gen, is always following her around. And Chet Bullens wishes the weird kids would just stop being so different so he can concentrate on basketball.

They aren’t friends, at least not until Chet pulls a prank that traps Virgil and his pet guinea pig at the bottom of a well. This disaster leads Kaori, Gen, and Valencia on an epic quest to find missing Virgil. Through luck, smarts, bravery, and a little help from the universe, a rescue is performed, a bully is put in his place, and friendship blooms.

The acclaimed and award-winning author of *Blackbird Fly* and *The Land of Forgotten Girls* writes with an authentic, humorous, and irresistible tween voice that will appeal to fans of Thanhha Lai and Rita Williams-Garcia.

“Readers across the board will flock to this book that has something for nearly everyone—humor, bullying, self-acceptance, cross-generational relationships, and a smartly fateful ending.”—School Library Journal



Debby Waldman

Addy's Race



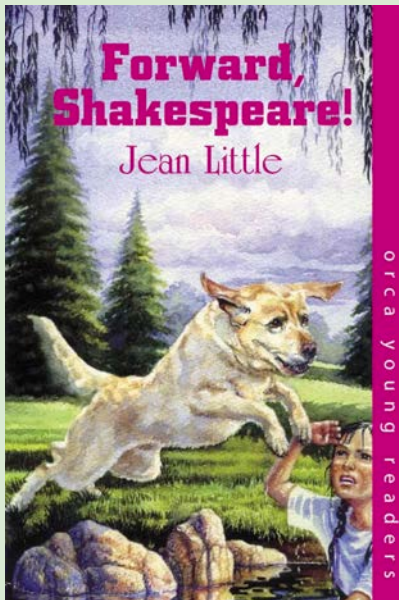
ORCA YOUNG READERS

Addy's Race

Debby Waldman | Age 9-12 | Hearing impairment; use of hearing aids

Addy has worn hearing aids for as long as she can remember.

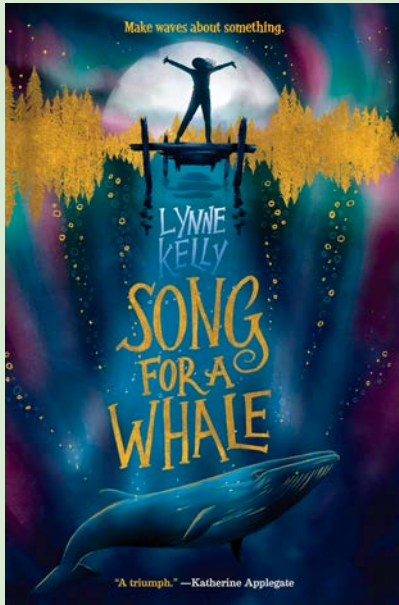
Her mother tells her this makes her special, but now that Addy's in grade six, she wants to be special for what she's done. When Addy joins the school running club to keep her best friend, Lucy, company, she discovers she is a gifted runner. Lucy isn't, which is problematic. Further troubles surface when Addy gets paired on a school project with Sierra, a smart, self-assured new classmate who wears a cochlear implant. Addy is surprised to discover hearing loss is all they have in common—and a shared disability is not enough of a foundation for a friendship. True friends support each other, even if they have different passions and dreams. More importantly, Addy comes to understand that she is defined by more than her hearing loss. She has the power to choose how people will see her, and she does.



Forward, Shakespeare!

Jean Little | Age 9-12 | Visual impairment

Seeing-eye pup, Shakespeare, conquered many fears in Rescue Pup. Now he is back, about to be matched up with a blind boy, ready to begin his working life. Tim is enraged by his blindness and wants nothing to do with a guide dog. But he is no match for Shakespeare.



[Song for a Whale](#)

Lynne Kelly | Age 9-12 | Hearing impairment

The award-winning and USA Today bestselling story of a deaf girl's connection to a whale whose song can't be heard by his species, and the journey she takes to help him.

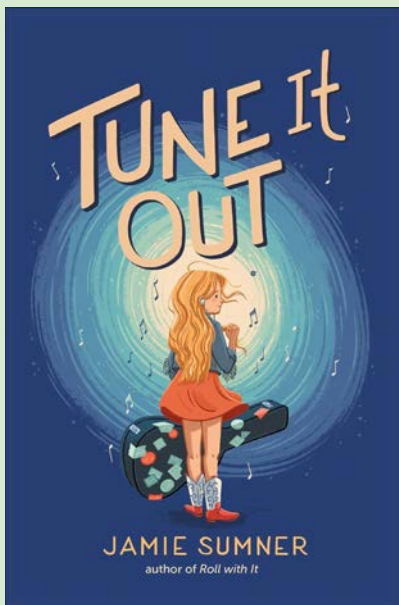
"Fascinating, brave, and tender...a triumph." --Katherine Applegate, Newbery Award-winning author of *The One and Only Ivan*

From fixing the class computer to repairing old radios, twelve-year-old Iris is a tech genius. But she's the only deaf person in her school, so people often treat her like she's not very smart. If you've ever felt like no one was listening to you, then you know how hard that can be.

When she learns about Blue 55, a real whale who is unable to speak to other whales, Iris understands how he must feel. Then she has an idea: she should invent a way to "sing" to him! But he's three thousand miles away. How will she play her song for him?

Full of heart and poignancy, this affecting story by sign language interpreter Lynne Kelly shows how a little determination can make big waves.

And make sure to read Lynne Kelly's next book and instant classic, *The Secret Language of Birds!*



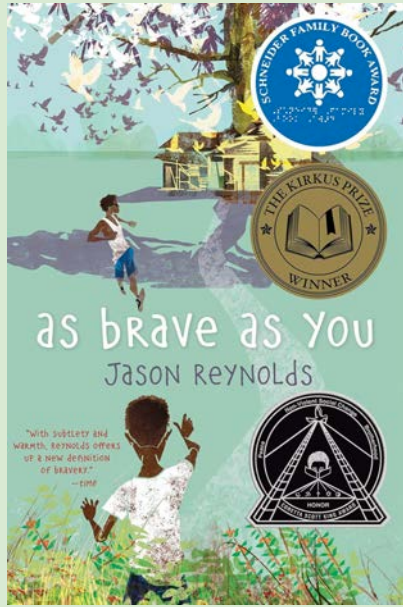
[Tune It Out](#)

Jamie Sumner | Age 10-12 | Sensory processing disorder

From the author of the acclaimed *Roll with It* comes a moving novel about a girl with a sensory processing disorder who has to find her own voice after her whole world turns upside down.

Lou Montgomery has the voice of an angel, or so her mother tells her and anyone else who will listen. But Lou can only hear the fear in her own voice. She's never liked crowds or loud noises or even high fives; in fact, she's terrified of them, which makes her pretty sure there's something wrong with her.

When Lou crashes their pickup on a dark and snowy road, child services separate the mother-daughter duo. Now she has to start all over again at a fancy private school far away from anything she's ever known. With help from an outgoing new friend, her aunt and uncle, and the school counselor, she begins to see things differently. A sensory processing disorder isn't something to be ashamed of, and music might just be the thing that saves Lou—and maybe her mom, too.



[As Brave as You](#)

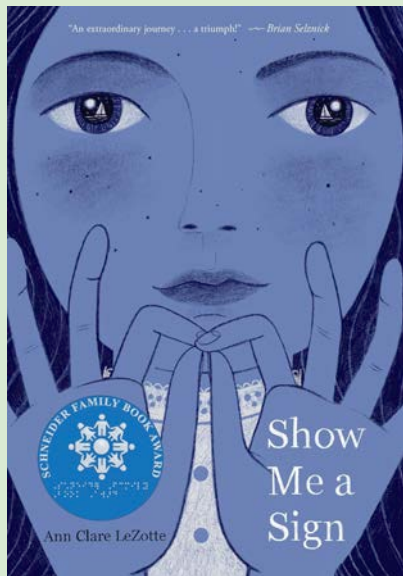
Jason Reynolds | Age 10-12 | *Visual Impairment of a caregiver*

In this “pitch-perfect contemporary novel” (Kirkus Reviews, starred review), Coretta Scott King – John Steptoe Award-winning author Jason Reynolds explores multigenerational ideas about family love and bravery in the story of two brothers, their blind grandfather, and a dangerous rite of passage.

Genie’s summer is full of surprises. The first is that he and his big brother, Ernie, are leaving Brooklyn for the very first time to spend the summer with their grandparents all the way in Virginia—in the COUNTRY! The second surprise comes when Genie figures out that their grandfather is blind. Thunderstruck, Genie peppers Grandpop with questions about how he hides it so well (besides wearing way cool Ray-Bans).

How does he match his clothes? Know where to walk? Cook with a gas stove? Pour a glass of sweet tea without spilling it? Genie thinks Grandpop must be the bravest guy he’s ever known, but he starts to notice that his grandfather never leaves the house—as in NEVER. And when he finds the secret room that Grandpop is always disappearing into—a room so full of songbirds and plants that it’s almost as if it’s been pulled inside-out—he begins to wonder if his grandfather is really so brave after all.

Then Ernie lets him down in the bravery department. It’s his fourteenth birthday, and, Grandpop says to become a man, you have to learn how to shoot a gun. Genie thinks that is AWESOME until he realizes Ernie has no interest in learning how to shoot. None. Nada. Dumbfounded by Ernie’s reluctance, Genie is left to wonder—is bravery and becoming a man only about proving something, or is it just as important to own up to what you won’t do?

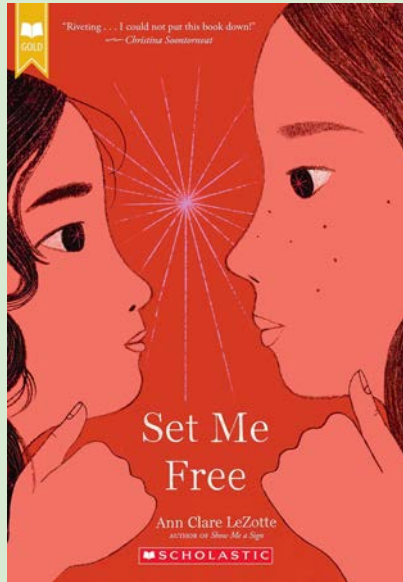


[Show Me a Sign \(#1\)](#)

Ann Clare LeZotte | Age 10-13 | *Hearing impairment*

Mary Lambert has always felt safe and protected on her beloved island of Martha’s Vineyard. Her great-great-grandfather was an early English settler and the first deaf islander. Now, over a hundred years later, many people there -- including Mary -- are deaf, and nearly everyone can communicate in sign language. Mary has never felt isolated. She is proud of her lineage.

But recent events have delivered winds of change. Mary’s brother died, leaving her family shattered. Tensions over land disputes are mounting between English settlers and the Wampanoag people. And a cunning young scientist has arrived, hoping to discover the origin of the island’s prevalent deafness. His maniacal drive to find answers soon renders Mary a “live specimen” in a cruel experiment. Her struggle to save herself is at the core of this penetrating and poignant novel that probes our perceptions of ability and disability.



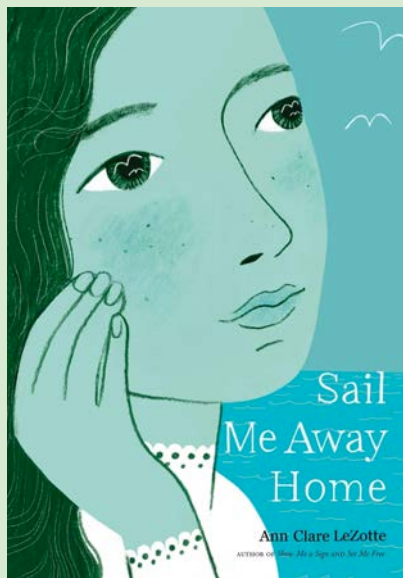
Set Me Free (Show Me a Sign #2)

Ann Clare LeZotte | Age 10-13 | Hearing impairment

Three years after being kidnapped as a "live specimen" in a cruel experiment to determine the cause of her deafness, Mary Lambert has grown weary of domestic life on Martha's Vineyard, and even of her once beloved writing.

So when an old acquaintance summons her to an isolated manor house outside Boston to teach a young deaf girl to communicate, Mary agrees. But can a child of eight with no prior language be taught? And is Mary up to the task? With newfound purpose, Mary arrives only to discover that there is much more to the girl's story--and the circumstances of her confinement--than she ever could have imagined. Suddenly, teaching her and freeing her from the prison of her isolation, takes on much greater meaning, and peril.

Riveting and complex, delicately nuanced and fervently feminist, *Set Me Free* is a masterful stand-alone companion to *Show Me a Sign*, and a searing exposé of ableism, racism, and colonialism that will challenge you to think differently about the dignity and capacity within every human being.



Sail Me Away Home (Show Me a Sign #3)

Ann Clare LeZotte | Age 10-13 | Hearing impairment

As a young teacher on Martha's Vineyard, Mary Lambert feels restless and adrift. So when a league of missionaries invite her to travel abroad, she knows it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Paris is home to a pioneering deaf school where she could meet its visionary instructors Jean Massieu and Laurent Clerc--and bring back their methods to America!

But the endeavor comes at a cost: The missionaries' plan to "save" deaf children is questionable at best--and requires Mary's support. What's more, the missionaries' work threatens the Wampanoag and other Native peoples' freedom and safety. Is pursuing Mary's own goals worth the price of betraying her friends and her own values?

So begins a feverish and fraught adventure. Brimming with vivid detail and startling insight, *Sail Me Away Home* will enrich your understanding of the d/Deaf experience as it celebrates d/Deaf history, culture, and community.



All He Knew

Helen Frost | Age 10-14 | Hearing impairment

A novel in verse about a young deaf boy during World War II, the sister who loves him, and the conscientious objector who helps him. Inspired by true events.

Henry has been deaf from an early age—he is intelligent and aware of language, but by age six, he has decided it's not safe to speak to strangers. When the time comes for him to start school, he is labeled "unteachable." Because his family has very little money, his parents and older sister, Molly, feel powerless to help him. Henry is sent to Riverview, a bleak institution where he is misunderstood, underestimated, and harshly treated.

Victor, a conscientious objector to World War II, is part of a Civilian Public Service program offered as an alternative to the draft. In 1942, he arrives at Riverview to serve as an attendant and quickly sees that Henry is far from unteachable—he is brave, clever, and sometimes mischievous. In Victor's care, Henry begins to see how things can change for the better.

Heartbreaking and ultimately hopeful, Helen Frost's *All He Knew* is inspired by true events and provides sharp insight into a little-known element of history.



Tangerine

Edward Bloor | Age 11-13 | Visual Impairment

Paul Fisher sees the world from behind glasses so thick he looks like a bug-eyed alien. But he's not so blind that he can't see there are some very unusual things about his family's new home in Tangerine County, Florida.

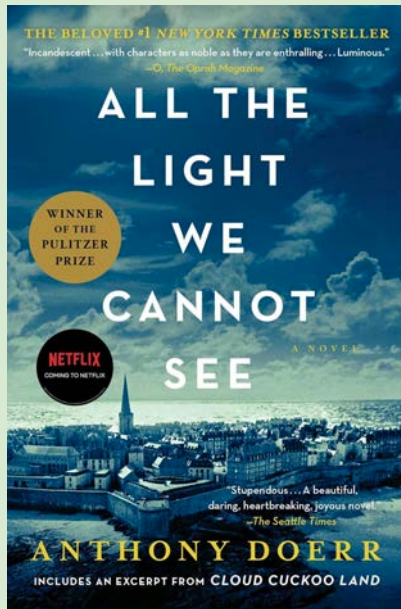
Where else does a sinkhole swallow the local school, fire burn underground for years, and lightning strike at the same time every day? The chaos is compounded by constant harassment from his football-star brother.

Adjusting to life in Tangerine isn't easy for Paul—until he joins the soccer team at his middle school. With the help of his new teammates, Paul begins to discover what lies beneath the surface of his strange new hometown. And he also gains the courage to face up to some secrets his family has been keeping from him for far too long.

In *Tangerine*, it seems, anything is possible.

"A richly imagined read about an underdog coming into his own." —BCCB

Young adult/high school



All the Light We Cannot See

Anthony Doerr | Age 16+ | Visual impairment

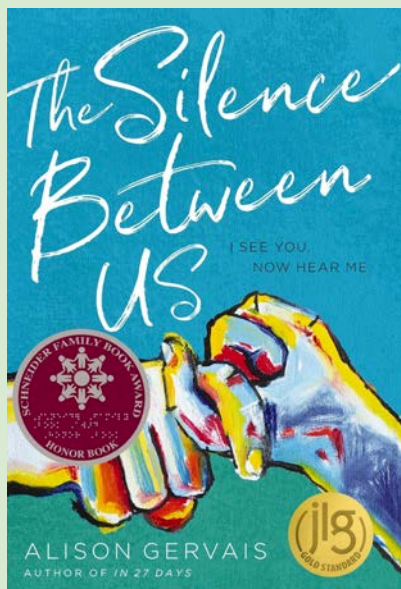
NOW A NETFLIX LIMITED SERIES—from producer and director Shawn Levy (Stranger Things) starring Mark Ruffalo, Hugh Laurie, and newcomer Aria Mia Loberti

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award finalist, the beloved instant New York Times bestseller and New York Times Book Review Top 10 Book about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

Marie-Laure lives with her father in Paris near the Museum of Natural History where he works as the master of its thousands of locks. When she is six, Marie-Laure goes blind and her father builds a perfect miniature of their neighborhood so she can memorize it by touch and navigate her way home. When she is twelve, the Nazis occupy Paris, and father and daughter flee to the walled citadel of Saint-Malo, where Marie-Laure's reclusive great uncle lives in a tall house by the sea. With them they carry what might be the museum's most valuable and dangerous jewel.

In a mining town in Germany, the orphan Werner grows up with his younger sister, enchanted by a crude radio they find. Werner becomes an expert at building and fixing these crucial new instruments, a talent that wins him a place at a brutal academy for Hitler Youth, then a special assignment to track the Resistance. More and more aware of the human cost of his intelligence, Werner travels through the heart of the war and, finally, into Saint-Malo, where his story and Marie-Laure's converge.

Doerr's "stunning sense of physical detail and gorgeous metaphors" (San Francisco Chronicle) are dazzling. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, he illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another. Ten years in the writing, *All the Light We Cannot See* is a magnificent, deeply moving novel from a writer "whose sentences never fail to thrill" (Los Angeles Times).



The Silence Between Us

Alison Gervais | YA | Hearing impairment

Faced with the challenges of transitioning from a Hard of Hearing School to a Hearing high school, Maya has more than a learning curve. But what if she has more to learn about herself and how far she is willing to push for what she believes in? Perfect for contemporary fiction fans, *The Silence Between Us* is a novel that doesn't shy away from the real-life struggles of high school, heart break, and d/Deaf culture.

Schneider Family Book Award, Best Teen Honor Book 2020

Torn from her Hard of Hearing school when her mother's job takes them across the country, Deaf teen Maya must attend a hearing school for the first time since her hearing loss. As if that wasn't hard enough, she also has to adjust to the hearing culture, which she finds frustrating. When her new friends and classmates start pushing into Maya's thoughts about what it means to be Deaf, it clashes with her idea of self-worth and values. Looking past graduation towards a future medical career, Maya knows nothing, not even an unexpected romance, will derail her pursuits or cause her to question her integrity.

Wattpad sensation Alison Gervais writes a stunning portrayal of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing culture in this clean YA contemporary romance. Drawing from her own deaf experience and relationship with the HoH community, Gervais provides a personal interview and commentary on cochlear implants. *The Silence Between Us* mixes lighthearted romance with deeper social issues facing minority groups.

“*The Silence Between Us* is eminently un-put-down-able.” (NPR)

“Gervais deftly renders both the nuanced, everyday realities of life with disability and Maya’s fierce pride in her Deafness, delivering a vibrant story that will resonate with Deaf and hearing audiences alike.” –?Booklist

“A solid addition to middle/high school fiction that allows for deep discussion about stereotypes concerning disabilities.”?School Library Journal

“This is a great YA contemporary (clean) romance that follows Maya as she navigates a new school and plans for her future. The addition of representation by a Deaf character was really beautifully done. Highly recommend for people looking for a sweet, engaging, and educational romantic read.” (YA and Kids Book Central)



[Give Me a Sign](#)

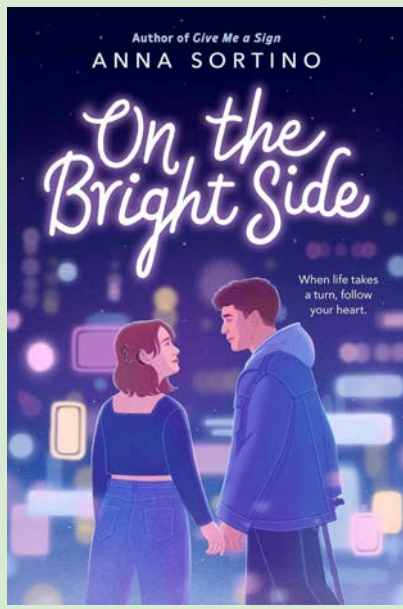
Anna Sortino | YA | *Hearing impairment*

Jenny Han meets CODA in this big-hearted YA debut about first love and Deaf pride at a summer camp.

Lilah is stuck in the middle. At least, that’s what having a hearing loss seems like sometimes—when you don’t feel “deaf enough” to identify as Deaf or hearing enough to meet the world’s expectations. But this summer, Lilah is ready for a change.

When Lilah becomes a counselor at a summer camp for the deaf and blind, her plan is to brush up on her ASL. Once there, she also finds a community. There are cute British lifeguards who break hearts but not rules, a YouTuber who’s just a bit desperate for clout, the campers Lilah’s responsible for (and overwhelmed by)—and then there’s Isaac, the dreamy Deaf counselor who volunteers to help Lilah with her signing.

Romance was never on the agenda, and Lilah’s not positive Isaac likes her that way. But all signs seem to point to love. Unless she’s reading them wrong? One thing’s for sure: Lilah wanted change, and things here . . . they’re certainly different than what she’s used to.



[On the Bright Side](#)

Anna Sortino | YA | Hearing impairment

A hopeful novel about love, disability, and the inevitability of change by the author of Give Me a Sign.

“Poignant, romantic, and deeply heartfelt.” —Amber Smith, New York Times bestselling author of *The Way I Used to Be*

Ellie’s Deaf boarding school just shut down, forcing her to leave the place she considered home and return to her hearing family. But being mainstreamed into public school isn’t exactly easy. So her guidance counselor pairs her with Jackson, a student who’s supposed to help her adjust. Can the boy who tries to say the right things, and gets it all wrong, be the lifeline Ellie needs?

Jackson has been avoiding his teammates ever since some numbness in his legs cost them an important soccer match. With his senior year off to a lonely start, he’s intrigued when he’s asked to help the new girl, initially thinking it will be a commendable move on his part. Little does he know Ellie will soon be the person he wants most by his side when the strange symptoms he’s experiencing amount to a life-changing diagnosis.

Exploring what it means to build community, Anna Sortino pens a story about the fear of the unknown and the beauty of the unexpected, all wrapped up in a poignant romance that will break your heart and put it back together again.



[The Sign for Home](#)

Blair Fell | YA | Visual and hearing impairment

Longlisted for The Center for Fiction First Novel Prize

When a young DeafBlind man learns the girl he thought was lost forever might still be out there, he embarks on a life-changing journey to find her—and his freedom.

Arlo Dilly is young, handsome, and eager to meet the right girl. He also happens to be DeafBlind, a Jehovah’s Witness, and under the strict guardianship of his controlling uncle. His chances of finding someone to love seem slim to none.

And yet, it happened once before: many years ago, at a boarding school for the Deaf, Arlo met the love of his life—a mysterious girl with onyx eyes and beautifully expressive hands which told him the most amazing stories. But tragedy struck, and their love was lost forever.

Or so Arlo thought.

After years trying to heal his broken heart, Arlo is assigned a college writing assignment which unlocks buried memories of his past. Soon he wonders if the hearing people he was supposed to trust have been lying to him all along, and if his lost love might be found again.

No longer willing to accept what others tell him, Arlo convinces a small band of misfit friends to set off on a journey to learn the truth. After all, who better to bring on this quest than his gay interpreter and wildly inappropriate Belgian best friend? Despite

the many forces working against him, Arlo will stop at nothing to find the girl who got away and experience all of life's joyful possibilities.



[Not if I See You First](#)

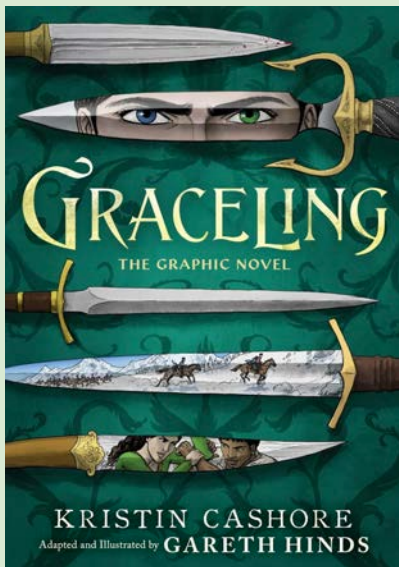
Eric Lindstrom | YA | Visual impairment

In the tradition of Gayle Forman and John Green comes this extraordinary YA debut about a blind teen girl navigating life and love in high school.

Parker Grant doesn't need 20/20 vision to see right through you. That's why she created the Rules: Don't treat her any differently just because she's blind, and never take advantage. There will be no second chances. Just ask Scott Kilpatrick, the boy who broke her heart.

When Scott suddenly reappears in her life after being gone for years, Parker knows there's only one way to react—shun him so hard it hurts. She has enough on her mind already, like trying out for the track team (that's right, her eyes don't work but her legs still do), doling out tough-love advice to her painfully naive classmates, and giving herself gold stars for every day she hasn't cried since her dad's death three months ago. But avoiding her past quickly proves impossible, and the more Parker learns about what really happened—both with Scott, and her dad—the more she starts to question if things are always as they seem. Maybe, just maybe, some Rules are meant to be broken.

Debut author Eric Lindstrom's *Not If I See You First* combines a fiercely engaging voice with true heart.



[Graceling: The Graphic Novel](#)

Kristin Cashore | YA | Visual impairment

Discover the Graceling Realm in this unforgettable, award-winning novel from bestselling author Kristin Cashore.

A New York Times bestseller * ALA Best Book for Young Adults * Mythopoeic Fantasy Award for Children's Literature Winner * Publishers Weekly, School Library Journal, Booklist, and BCCB Best Book of the Year

"Rageful, exhilarating, wistful in turns" (New York Times Book Review) with "a knee weakening romance" (Los Angeles Times). *Graceling* is a thrilling, action-packed fantasy adventure that will resonate deeply with anyone trying to find their way in the world.

Graceling tells the story of the vulnerable-yet-strong Katsa, who is smart and beautiful and lives in the Seven Kingdoms where selected people are born with a Grace, a special talent that can be anything at all. Katsa's Grace is killing. As the king's niece, she is forced to use her extreme skills as his brutal enforcer. Until the day she meets Prince Po, who is Graced with combat skills, and Katsa's life begins to change. She never expects to become Po's friend. She never expects to learn a new truth about her own Grace—or about a terrible secret that lies hidden far away . . . a secret that could destroy all seven kingdoms with words alone.

And don't miss the sequel *Fire* and companion *Bitterblue*, both award-winning New York Times bestsellers featuring Kristin Cashore's elegant, evocative prose and unforgettable characters.

This ebook includes sample chapters of *Fire*, *Bitterblue*, and *Jane, Unlimited*.



Things the Eye Can't See

Penny Joelson | YA | Visual impairment

The thrilling new novel from the award-winning author of *I Have No Secrets*

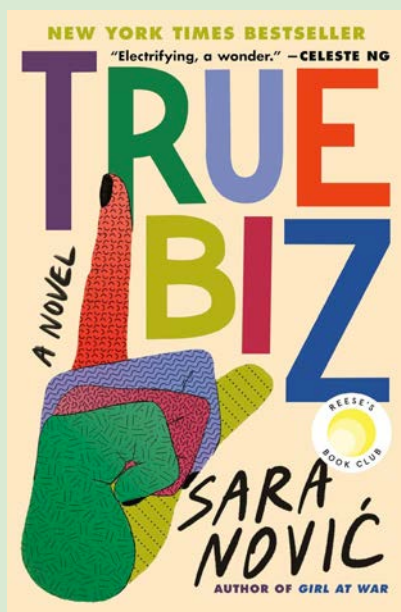
A chance meeting and a secret message drags Libby into a thrilling mystery, but no one believes she can spot the clues. Can she make them realise what she is really capable of, before it's too late?

Libby is visually impaired but that doesn't stop her being a keen photographer. She loves going out walking with her guide dog, Samson, and taking photos, but her family worry about her – and Libby wishes she could be more independent.

The day that the boy gives her a secret note to deliver changes everything. Because soon after, the boy goes missing, and no one – except Libby and her new friend Kyle – thinks there is anything to worry about.

Libby knows there's no way her parents would let her get involved. But what if she's the only person who can solve the mystery...?

A compulsive page-turner for readers aged 12 and up.

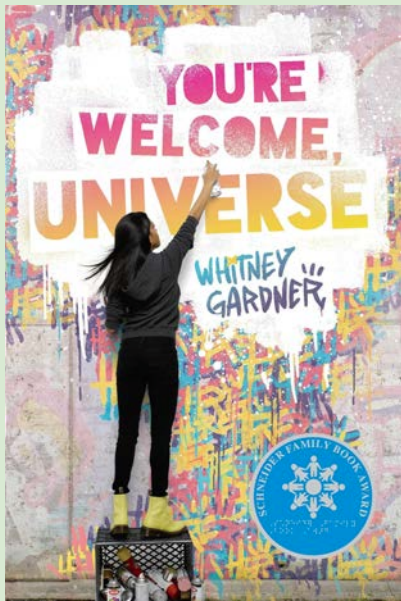


True Biz

Sara Novic | YA | Hearing impairment

True biz? The students at the River Valley School for the Deaf just want to hook up, pass their history finals, and have politicians, doctors, and their parents stop telling them what to do with their bodies. This revelatory novel plunges readers into the halls of a residential school for the deaf, where they'll meet Charlie, a rebellious transfer student who's never met another deaf person before; Austin, the school's golden boy, whose world is rocked when his baby sister is born hearing; and February, the hearing headmistress, a CODA (child of deaf adult(s)) who is fighting to keep her school open and her marriage intact, but might not be able to do both. As a series of crises both personal and political threaten to unravel each of them, Charlie, Austin, and February find their lives inextricable from one another—and changed forever.

This is a story of sign language and lip-reading, disability and civil rights, isolation and injustice, first love and loss, and, above all, great persistence, daring, and joy. Absorbing and assured, idiosyncratic and relatable, this is an unforgettable journey into the Deaf community and a universal celebration of human connection.



[You're Welcome, Universe](#)

Whitney Gardner | YA | Hearing impairment

A vibrant, edgy, fresh new YA voice for fans of *More Happy Than Not* and *Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda*, packed with interior graffiti.

Winner of the Schneider Family Book Award!

When Julia finds a slur about her best friend scrawled across the back of the Kingston School for the Deaf, she covers it up with a beautiful (albeit illegal) graffiti mural.

Her supposed best friend snitches, the principal expels her, and her two mothers set Julia up with a one-way ticket to a “mainstream” school in the suburbs, where she’s treated like an outcast as the only deaf student. The last thing she has left is her art, and not even Banksy himself could convince her to give that up.

Out in the ‘burbs, Julia paints anywhere she can, eager to claim some turf of her own. But Julia soon learns that she might not be the only vandal in town. Someone is adding to her tags, making them better, showing off—and showing Julia up in the process. She expected her art might get painted over by cops. But she never imagined getting dragged into a full-blown graffiti war.

Told with wit and grit by debut author Whitney Gardner, who also provides gorgeous interior illustrations of Julia’s graffiti tags, *You’re Welcome, Universe* introduces audiences to a one-of-a-kind protagonist who is unabashedly herself no matter what life throws in her way.

"[A] spectacular debut...a moving, beautifully written contemporary novel full of quirky art and complicated friendships...this book is a gift to be thankful for."—BookRiot

Age not specified



[Dina the Deaf Dinosaur](#)

Carole Addabbo, Valentine (I) | Age not specified | Hearing impairment

Drawing upon feelings from her own childhood, author Carole Addabbo, who has been deaf since birth, tells the endearing story of Dina, a deaf dinosaur, who runs away from home because her parents would not let her learn sign language. In the woods, she befriends Otto the Owl, Moliere the Mole, and Camilla the Chipmunk. Illustrated with detailed and imaginative original watercolors by Valentine, this is a story for all children and their families, whether they are deaf or can hear, that communication is key to family harmony.



Sign to Me: Inclusive Families are Loving Families in Arabic and English

Ellenore Angelidis, Meseret Tekle, Eyayu Genet (I) | Age not specified | Hearing impairment

When a young Ethiopian boy is born deaf, his family and friends struggle to communicate with him. But when a cousin who learned sign language comes to visit, she helps him fill the house with laughter and joy, and the whole family learns how much better and brighter life is when everyone is included. This tender tale of empathy and inclusion shows how beautiful and special all kids regardless of their different abilities and why inclusion that comes from being able to communicate through sign education is so important and life-changing. Side by side bilingual text supports vocabulary and fluency.

Open Hearts Big Dreams Ready Set Go (OHBD-RSG) Books were created to help increase the literacy rate in Ethiopia through giving readers books with stories in their heart languages, full of colorful illustrations with Ethiopian settings and details. Profits from book sales are used to create, print, and distribute more OHBD-RSG books to kids in Ethiopia, Africa's second most populous country. Ethiopia's population has a high percentage of children ages 0-14. Only a small percentage attend pre-school or kindergarten, and the adult literacy rate is around 50%.

Some of our books are based on wise Ethiopian sayings that often rhyme in Amharic. If an adult says the first half, many children can chant the second half. Sometimes the meaning of these sayings is clear. Sometimes it has to be puzzled out and argued over. But sayings and idioms and proverbs help people express truths and beliefs in unusual ways. Other books are based on STEAM topics, cooking, colors, counting and more.

Since late 2017, OHBD has published over 150 unique OHBD-RSG bilingual titles in a number of Ethiopian, African and global languages plus English and has plans to publish more titles and add more languages. New titles or languages are added monthly; follow our author page to get new release announcements. Open Hearts Big Dreams Fund (OHBD) is a 501(3)(c) not for profit organization that believes the chance to dream big dreams should not depend on where in the world you are born. Our mission is to inspire and enable youth in Ethiopia through Literacy, Innovation, Inclusion and Leadership Projects in collaboration with individuals and organizations in Ethiopia and globally.