

## **Bibliography of Books about the Disability Experience**

### **For younger readers (through grade 6)**

Alexander, Claire. *Back to Front and Upside Down*. Eerdman's Books for Young Readers. 2012. While the rest of the class makes birthday cards for the principal, Stanley struggles with his words and letters. Grades K-3. Winner of the 2012 Schneider Family Book Award.

\*Asare, Meshack. *Sosu's Call*. Kane, 2002.

Sosu and his dog, Fusa, warn the inhabitants of an African village of a threatening violent storm even though Sosu cannot use his legs to walk. The villagers show their appreciation with a special gift. For kindergarten to grade 3.

Avi. Illustrated by Bill Farnsworth. *Prairie School*. HarperCollins. 2001.

In 1880, Noah's aunt teaches him how to read as they explore the Colorado prairie together, as Noah pushes Aunt Dora in her wheelchair. Grades 3-6.

\*Bang, Molly. *Tiger's Fall*. Holt, 2001.

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. For grades 3 to 6.

\*Barasch, Lynne. *Knockin' on Wood: Starring Peg Leg Bates*. Lee and Low Books, 2004.

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. For kindergarten to grade 3.

\*Bertrand, Diane Gonzales. *My Pal, Victor/Mi Amigo, Victor*. Raven Tree Press, 2004.

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. For kindergarten to grade 3. Schneider Family Book Award, 2005.

Carlson, Nancy. *Arnie and the New Kid*. Puffin. 1990.

When an accident requires Arnie to use crutches, he begins to understand the limits and possibilities of his new classmate, who has a wheelchair. Grades K-3.

\*Chaconas, Dori. *Dancing with Katya*. Peachtree, 2006.

Wisconsin farm, 1920s. Sisters Anna and Katya love pretending to be ballerinas dancing in the meadows until Katya falls ill with polio. She returns from a long hospital stay in bulky leg braces but Anna finds a new way for Katya to dance. For kindergarten to grade 3.

\*Davis, Patricia Anne. *Brian's Bird*. Whitman, 2000.

Brian, who is blind, enjoys taking care of the parakeet he receives on his eighth birthday. When his older brother accidentally lets the bird escape but then helps Brian get it back, the boys feel closer. For kindergarten to grade 3.

\*Dwight, Laura. *Brothers and Sisters*. Star Bright Books, 2005.

A photo essay about school age siblings one of whom has a disability—hearing or visually impairment, Down Syndrome, or wearing a prosthesis. Emphasizes playing together and everyday family life. For kindergarten to grade 3.

\*Finke, Beth. *Hanni and Beth: Safe and Sound*. Blue Marlin, 2007.

Seeing Eye dog Hanni describes her routine duties to guide and protect her partner Beth, a woman who is blind. Both Hanni and Beth provide personal notes about their background. For kindergarten to grade 3. ASPCA award.

Fleming, Virginia M. *Be Good to Eddie Lee*. Philomel, 1993.

Although Christy considered him a pest, when Eddie Lee, a boy with Down Syndrome, follows her into the woods, he shares several special discoveries with her. Grades K-3.

\*Fraustino, Lisa Rowe. *The Hickory Chair*. Arthur Levine Books, 2001.

A blind boy tells of his loving relationship with his grandmother. After she dies, every family member—except him—finds notes on special things she has left for them. He chooses her favorite chair as a remembrance, and years later, his grandchild finds a note inside it—for him from her. For kindergarten to grade 3.

\*Gifaldi, David. *Ben, King of the River*. Whitman, 2001.

Chad describes his family's first camping trip with his five-year-old brother Ben, who has a developmental disability and many allergies. Chad tells about the hard time he has dealing with Ben's needs and how much he cares about his sibling. For grades 3 to 6.

\*Gilmore, Rachna. *Screaming Kind of Day*. Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1999.

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. For kindergarten to grade 3. Canadian Governor's Award.

\*Glenn, Sharlee. *Keeping Up with Roo*. Putnam's Sons, 2004.

Five-year-old Gracie has always had a special bond with her Aunt Roo, who is mentally disabled. That relationship changes far awhile when Gracie begins school. For kindergarten to grade 3.

Hatkoff, Isabella, and Craig Hatkoff and Paula Kahumbu. Photographs by Peter Greste. *Owen & Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship*. Scholastic Press. 2006.

Illustrated text and full-color photographs tell the true story of the unusual relationship between Owen, a baby hippopotamus orphaned by the tsunami, and Mzee, a 130-year-old giant tortoise. Grades 3-6.

\*Herrera, Juan Felipe. *Featherless/Desplumado: Story/Cuento*. Children's Book Press, 2004.

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. For kindergarten to grade 3.

\*Karim, Roberta. *Mandy Sue Day*. Clarion, 1994.

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. For kindergarten to grade 3.

Kent, Susan. *Let's Talk About Needing Extra Help at School*. PowerKids Press. 2000.

Discusses some of the reasons children may need help in school and how to get the help they need. Grades K-3.

\*Knowlton, Laurie Lazzaro. *A Young Man's Dance*. Boyds Mills Press, 2006.

Grandma Ronnie's grandson misses baking cookies and dancing with her now that she lives in a nursing home, uses a wheelchair, and doesn't recognize people. After several visits, he finds a special way to reconnect with her. For kindergarten to grade 3.

\*Lang, Glenna. *Looking Out for Sarah*. Charles bridge, 2001.

Describes a day in the life of Perry, a seeing-eye dog, as he guides his owner Sarah to the grocery store, post office, and on a school visit. He dreams about the month that he and Sarah walked from Boston to New York. Grades K-3. Schneider Family Book Award, 2004.

Lears, Laurie. Illustrated by Karen Ritz. *Ian's Walk*. Albert Whitman. 1998.

Ian, who is autistic, takes a walk with his sisters and demonstrates how he sees, hears, smells, and tastes things differently. Grades 3-6.

Lester, Helen. *Hooway for Wodney Wat*. Houghton Mifflin, 1999.

All his classmates make fun of Rodney because he cannot pronounce his name, but it is Rodney's speech impediment that drives away the class bully. Grades K-3.

Lester, Helen. *Listen, Buddy*. Houghton Mifflin. 1995.

A lop-eared rabbit named Buddy finds himself in trouble with the Scruffy Varmint because he never listens. Grades K-3.

Lewis, Beverly. *In Jesse's Shoes: Appreciating Kids with Special Needs*. Bethany House. 2007. Allie helps Jesse, her older, mentally disabled brother on his way to school and endures the taunts of other children, but she does not understand why God made Jesse the way he is until she takes the time to "walk in his shoes" for a while. Grades K-3.

Lyon, George Ella. Illustrated by Lynne Avril. *The Pirate of Kindergarten*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 2010.

Ginny's eyes play tricks on her, making her see everything double, but when she goes to vision screening at school and discovers that not everyone sees this way, she learns that her double vision can be cured. Grades K-3. Winner of the 2011 Schneider Family Book Award.

\*McNamee, Graham. *Nothing Wrong with a Three-Legged Dog*. Yearling, 2001.

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. For grades 3 to 6.

\*Millman, Isaac. *Moses Goes to a Concert*. Farrar Straus, 1998.

Moses and his classmates, all of whom are deaf, go to a concert with their teacher and enjoy experiencing music. They discover that the percussionist in the orchestra is also deaf. Includes information on sign language. For kindergarten to grade 3.

Mitchell, Lori. *Different Just Like Me*. Talewinds/Charlesbridge. 1999.

While preparing for a visit to her grandmother, a young girl notices that, like the flowers in Grammie's garden, people who are different from one another also share similarities and it's okay to like them all the same. Grades K-3.

Moore-Mallinos, Jennifer. illustrations, Marta Fabrega. *It's Called Dyslexia*. Barron's. 2007.

A little girl begins to get discouraged at school because she can't read and write as well as the other students, but her teacher discovers that she has dyslexia and offers to provide her with extra help. Grades K-3.

\*Munsch, Robert N. *Zoom!* Scholastic, 2003.

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. For kindergarten to grade 3.

\*Parker, Robert Andrew. *Piano Starts Here: The Young Art Tatum*. Schwartz & Wade, 2008.

Bad eyesight doesn't stop Art Tatum from learning to play the family piano as a young boy. Art's musical career grows from playing professional shows in his hometown of Toledo, Ohio, to appearing with jazz bands across the country. Includes biographical information in endnote. For Kindergarten to grade 3. Schneider Family Book Award, 2009.

\*Petrillo, Genevieve. *Keep Your EAR on the Ball*. Tilbury House, 2007.

Davey, a new student who is blind, refuses all help from his sighted classmates, even while playing kickball at recess. The students figure out a way to help Davey help himself by using his hearing to full advantage—and keeping his independence. For kindergarten to grade 3.

Polacco, Patricia. *Thank You, Mr. Falker*. Philomel Books, 1998.

At first, Trisha loves school, but her difficulty learning to read makes her feel dumb, until, in the fifth grade, a new teacher helps her understand and overcome her problem. Grades K-3.

\*Riggio, Jamee. *Making of My Special Hand: Madison's Story*. Peachtree. 2000. Madison, a little girl born with one hand, tells about having a helper hand made specially for her. She explains all the stages involved in fitting her for a battery-operated prosthesis that allows her to open and close her new hand. For kindergarten to grade 3.

\*Rodowsky, Colby. *The Next-Door Dogs*. Farrar Strauss Giroux, 2005. Even though nine-year-old Sara is afraid of dogs, she becomes friends with a new neighbor who has a Dalmatian and a Labrador retriever. When Ms. Harrington falls down in her back yard, Sara is alerted by the dogs' barking and finds the courage to overcome her fear. For grades 2 to 4.

\*Seeger, Pete and Paul DuBois Jacobs. *The Deaf Musicians*. Putnam's, 2006.

Jazz pianist Lee is asked to leave his band when he loses his hearing. At sign language class, Lee meets Max who plays the sax. Riding the subway together, they form a new band with a big audience. For kindergarten to grade 3 and older readers. Schneider Family Book Award, 2007.

Seskin, Steve, and Allen Shamblin. Illustrations by Glin Dibley. *Don't Laugh at Me*. Tricycle Press. 2002. Illustrated version of a song pointing out that in spite of our differences, we are all the same in God's eyes. Includes companion CD with 2 songs. Grades K-3.

Shirley, Debra. Illustrated by Judy Stead. *Best Friend on Wheels*. Albert Whitman. 2008.

A young girl tells all the ways she and her best friend Sarah are alike, in spite of the fact that Sarah uses a wheelchair. Grades K-3.

\*Strom, Maria Diaz. *Rainbow Joe and Me*. Lee and Low Books, 1999.

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. For kindergarten to grade 3.

\*Stryer, Andrea Stenn. *Kami and the Yaks*. Bay Otter Press, 2007.

With a storm approaching, Kami—a Sherpa boy who is deaf—finds the littlest of his family's four yaks stuck in a crevice. Kami bravely rushes home and acts out the yak's plight in home sign then leads his father and brother to the rescue. For kindergarten to grade 3. Schneider Family Book Award, 2008.

Thomas, Pat. Illustrated by Lesley Parker. *Don't Call Me Special: A First Look at Disability*. 29 p. Barron's Educational Series. 2002.

Includes bibliographical references (p. 29). Introduces young children to the topic of disabilities, leading them to realize that everyone is different in some way, and that people should not be judged because of how they look or because they may need special help. Grades K-3.

\*Uhlberg, Myron. *Dad, Jackie, and Me*. Peachtree, 2005.

Brooklyn, New York; 1947. A boy learns about discrimination and tolerance as he and his father who is deaf share their enthusiasm over baseball and the Dodgers' first African American player, Jackie Robinson. For grades 2 to 4. Schneider Family Book Award, 2006.

\*Uhlberg, Myron. *The Printer*. Peachtree, 2003.

A young boy describes his deaf father's heroism when a fast spreading fire broke out at the newspaper factory. Working in the noisy pressroom, his father used sign language to alert other deaf workers of the danger so they could save their hearing colleagues. For grades 2 to 4.

Yaccarino, Dan. *Unlovable*. Holt. 2001.

Alfred, a pug, is made to feel inferior by a cat, a parrot, and the other neighborhood dogs, until a new dog moves in next door and helps Alfred to realize he is fine just the way he is. Grades K-3.

\*Yin. *Dear Santa, Please Come to the 19th Floor*. Philomel, 2002.

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. For kindergarten to grades 3.

### **For middle school readers (Grades 4-8)**

\*Alexander, Sally Hobart. *Do You Remember the Color Blue?* Viking, 2000.

A writer who went blind at age twenty-six answers questions that children have frequently asked during her visits to schools. She discusses reading, working with her guide dog, meeting her husband, and parenting her two children, as well as her reactions to being blind. For grades 4 to 7.

\*Auch, M. J. *One-Handed Catch*. Henry Holt and Company, 2006.

1946. After losing his left hand in an accident in his father's butcher shop, sixthgrader Norm uses his determination and good humor to continue his favorite activities—art work and playing baseball. For grades 4 to 7.

Baskin, Nora Raleigh. *Anything but Typical*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 2009.

Jason, a twelve-year-old autistic boy who wants to become a writer, relates what his life is like as he tries to make sense of his world. Grades 5-8. Winner of the 2010 Schneider Family Book Award.

\*Choldenko, Gennifer. *Al Capone Does My Shirts*. Putnam's Sons, 2004.

Twelve-year-old Moose Flanagan moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when his father takes a job at the maximum-security prison there. Moose struggles to make friends while taking care of Natalie, his older

autistic sister, and their mother unrealistically tries to have Natalie accepted at a special school. For grades 5 to 8. Newbery Honor book, 2005.

Connor, Leslie. *Waiting for Normal*. Katherine Tegen Books. 2008.

Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York. Grades 5-8. Winner of the 2009 Schneider Family Book Award.

\*Creech, Sharon. *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup*. HarperCollins, 2003.

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. For grades 5 to 8.

\*Dash, Joan. *World at Her Fingertips: The Story of Helen Keller*. Scholastic, 2001. 7 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. For grades 5 to 8.

\*Delano, Marfe Ferguson. *Helen's Eyes: A Photobiography of Annie Sullivan, Helen Keller's Teacher*. National Geographic, 2008.

Covers the life of Annie Sullivan (1866-1936) which changed dramatically in 1887 when she met her blind and deaf pupil seven-year-old Helen Keller. Examines their breakthrough in communication, rise to fame, financial difficulties, and constant mutual respect and devotion. For grades 4-7.

Draper, Sharon M. *Out of My Mind*. Atheneum Books for Young Readers. 2010.

Considered by many to be mentally retarded, a brilliant, impatient fifth-grader with cerebral palsy discovers a technological device that will allow her to speak for the first time. Grades 4-7.

Erskine, Kathryn. *Mockingbird*. Philomel Books. 2010.

In Caitlin's world, everything is black or white. Things are good or bad. Anything in between is confusing. That's the stuff Caitlin's older brother, Devon, has always explained. But now Devon's dead and Dad is no help at all. Caitlin wants to get over it, but as an eleven-year-old girl with Asperger's, she doesn't know how. When she reads the definition of closure, she realizes that is what she needs. In her search for it, Caitlin discovers that not everything is black and white—the world is full of colors—messy and beautiful. Grades 5-8.

\*Fusco, Kimberly Newton. *Tending to Grace*. Knopf, 2004.

Cornelia is shy and withdrawn because of her stutter. She feels even lonelier when her mother drops her off to live with an eccentric great-aunt in a rundown farmhouse. But slowly and warily Cornelia and her aunt learn to share their strengths with each other. For grades 6 to 9. Schneider Family Book Award, 2006.

\*Gantos, Jack. *What Would Joey Do?* Farrar Straus, 2002.

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. For grades 5 to 8.

\*Graff, Lisa. *The Thing about Georgie*. Harper Trophy, 2008.

Fourth-grader Georgie who is a dwarf, contends with concerns about becoming a big brother to someone who may outgrow him, losing his best friend Andy, the irony of portraying Abraham Lincoln in his class play, and working on a project with Jeanie the Meanie. For grades 4 to 7.

\*Greenberg, Jan. *Chuck Close: Up Close*. DK INK, 1998.

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. For grades 4 to 7.

Hamilton, Bethany. *Soul Surfer: A True Story of Faith, Family, and Fighting to Get Back on the Board*. Pocket Books. 2004.

Bethany Hamilton shares the story of her lifelong love of surfing, and tells how she was able to recover and return to competition with the help of her family, friends, and faith, after losing her arm in a shark attack at the age of thirteen. Grades 5-8.

\*Kurtz, Jane. *The Storyteller's Beads*. Harcourt Brace, 1998.

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. For grades 5 to 8.

Lean, Sarah. *A Dog Called Homeless*. Katherine Tegen Books/HarperCollins. 2012.

Fifth-grader Cally Louise Fisher stops talking, partly because her father and brother never speak of her mother who died a year earlier, but visions of her mother, friendships with a homeless man and a disabled boy, and a huge dog ensure that she still communicates. Grades 5-8. Winner of the 2012 Schneider Family Book Award.

\*Liao, Jimmy. *The Sound of Colors: A Journey of the Imagination*. Little, Brown and Company, 2006.

A year after feeling her sight slipping away, a girl with her white cane walks to the subway because there are some things she needs to find. She imagines the possibilities of going anywhere she wants, bucking the crowd, and finding a friend, to regain the light that glows in the heart. A picture book for all ages.

\*Lord, Cynthia. *Rules*. Scholastic Press, 2006.

Sometimes twelve-year-old Catherine resents her brother David, who is autistic, breaks all the rules, and gets all her parents' attention. Then she meets Jason, a teenage nonverbal paraplegic, at David's therapy center. As the two become friends, Catherine realizes that accepting differences matters more than any rules. For grades 5 to 8. Schneider Family Book Award, 2007.



\*Madden, Kerry. *Gentle's Holler: A Novel*. Viking, 2005.

Great Smoky Mountains, North Carolina; 1960s. Livy Two worries that love and music cannot feed a family of ten, especially since her father has no steady job, her little sister Gentle is probably blind, and her mother keeps having babies. Then her bossy grandmother pays a visit. For grades 5 to 8.

\*Mass, Wendy. *A Mango-Shaped Space*. Little, Brown, 2003.

Eight-grader Mia has been keeping a secret—even from her best friend, Jenna—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. For grade 5 to 8. Schneider Family Book Award, 2004.

\*McElfresh, Lynn E. *Can You Feel the Thunder?* Simon Schuster, 1999.

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. For grades 5 to 8.

Mikaelsen, Ben. *Petey*. Disney/Hyperion. 1998.

In 1922 Petey, who has cerebral palsy, is misdiagnosed as an idiot and institutionalized; sixty years later, still in the institution, he befriends a boy and shares with him the joy of life. Grades 5-8.

Montgomery, Sy. *Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World*. Houghton Mifflin Books for Children. 2012.

Examines the life and accomplishments of Temple Grandin, whose childhood diagnosis of autism and love of cows led her to revolutionize the livestock industry. Grades 5-8.

\*Nuzum, K. A. *A Small White Scar*. Joanna Cotler Books, 2006.

Colorado, 1940. Fifteen-year-old Will Bennon has his heart set on entering his first rodeo. He's fed up with his father's rules and with acting as caretaker for his twin brother, Denny, who has Down Syndrome. But when Will sets out on his horse to leave, Denny follows him. For grades 6 to 9.

Palacio, R. J. *Wonder*. Knopf. 2012

Ten-year-old Auggie Pullman, who was born with extreme facial abnormalities and was not expected to survive, goes from being home-schooled to entering fifth grade at a private middle school in Manhattan, which entails enduring the taunts and fear of his classmates as he struggles to be seen as just another student. Grades 5-8.

\*Ray, Delia. *Singing Hands*. Clarion, 2006.

Alabama, 1948. Twelve-year-old Gussie, a minister's daughter, learns the definition of integrity while helping with a celebration at the school for the deaf—her punishment for impulsive misdeeds against her deaf parents and their boarders. For grades 5 to 8.

\*Ryan, Pam Munoz. *Becoming Naomi Leon*. Scholastic, 2004.

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.

Selznick, Brian. *Wonderstruck: A Novel in Words and Pictures*. Scholastic. 2011.

Includes bibliographical references (p. 635-637). Relates the stories of twelve-year-old Ben, who loses his mother and his hearing in a short time frame and decides to leave his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he has never known in New York City; and Rose, who lives with her father but feels compelled to search for what is missing in her life. Ben's story is told in words; Rose's in pictures. Grades 5-8. Winner of the 2012 Schneider Family Book Award.

Sonnenblick, Jordan. *After Ever After*. Scholastic Press. 2010.

Although Jeff and Tad, encouraged by a new friend, Lindsey, make a deal to help one another overcome aftereffects of their cancer treatments in preparation for eighth-grade graduation, Jeff still craves advice from his older brother Stephen, who is studying drums in Africa. Grades 5-8. Winner of the 2011 Schneider Family Book Award.

\*Stauffacher, Sue. *Harry Sue*. Knopf, 2005.

Eleven-year-old Harry Sue would like to start a life of crime and be sent to jail in order to find her mother. Instead she protects children from her neglectful grandmother who runs a home day-care center and motivates her best friend Homer, a quadriplegic who lives in a tree house. For grades 4 to 7.

\*Zimmer, Tracie Vaughn. *Reaching for Sun*. Holtzbrinck, 2007.

Josie, born with cerebral palsy, lives with her mother and grandmother, who both love gardening. When a lonely boy, Jordan, moves in nearby, he and Josie relate through their interest in nature, and Josie makes her first friend. A novel in verse. For grades 4-7. Schneider Family Book Award, 2008.

### **For young adult readers (Grades 8-12)**

\*Abeel, Samantha. *My Thirteenth Winter: A Memoir*. Orchard, 2003.

Autobiography of a young woman both gifted and learning disabled. Discusses her experiences before and after the diagnosis of dyscalculia which compromises sequential processing required for spelling, telling time, remembering locker combinations, and understanding math and grammar. For young adult readers. Schneider Family Book Award, 2005.

Antony, John. *Five Flavors of Dumb*. Dial Books. 2010.

Eighteen-year-old Piper becomes the manager for her classmates' popular rock band, called Dumb, giving her the chance to prove her capabilities to her parents and others, if only she can get the band members to get along. Grades 9-12. Winner of the 2011 Schneider Family Teen Book Award.

\*Aronson, Sarah. *Head Case*. Roaring Brook Press, 2007.

Seventeen-year-old Frank Marder leaves the hospital in a wheelchair, paralyzed from the neck down. He reflects on the mistake—driving while drunk—that made him a quadriplegic and killed two people. Frank faces society's judgments and seeks forgiveness. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. For senior high.

\*Bingham, Kelly L. *Shark Girl*. Candlewick Press, 2007.

After a shark attack causes the amputation of her right arm, fifteen-year-old Jane, a talented artist, struggles to come to terms with her loss and the changes in her plans for the future. Told in conversations, letters, and prose poems. For junior and senior high.

\*Clements, Andrew. *Things Not Seen*. Philomel Books, 2002. 11When fifteen-year-old Bobby wakes up and finds himself invisible, his self-perception changes radically. Alicia, his new blind friend, empathizes with him because she often feels invisible yet she is the one who helps the most to restore Bobby's physical state. For young adult readers. Schneider Family Book Award, 2004.

\*Clements, Andrew. *Things That Are*. Philomel Books, 2008.

Still adjusting to being blind, Alicia must outwit an invisible man following Bobby, once invisible himself. This man's demands threaten Bobby, Alicia's family, and perhaps global security. For grades 7-10.

\*Friesen, Jonathan. *Jerk, California*. Speak, 2008.

Isolated at school and tormented at home by his stepdad, Minnesota high school senior Sam Carrier feels defined by his Tourette syndrome. But long-distance running, his deceased father's friend George, a special girl named Naomi, and a road trip to Jer, California, change his perspective. Some strong language. For senior high readers. Schneider Family Book Award, 2009.

\*Hautman, Pete. *Invisible*. Simon & Schuster, 2005.

Seventeen-year-old Dougie is a loner obsessed with building a bridge out of match sticks for his model railroad. His only friend and confidant is Andy, a popular football player, who lives next door. Gradually Dougie reveals their secret bond—the fires they set together. Some violence. For senior high readers.

\*Johnson, Harriet McBryde. *Accidents of Nature*. Holt, 2006.

North Carolina, 1970. Seventeen-year-old Jean, who has cerebral palsy, attends Camp Courage, where for the first time she meets other teens with disabilities. Her radical, new friend Sara directs an anti-telethon skit and changes Jean's perceptions of the normal world. Some descriptions of sex. For senior high readers.

\*Koertge, Ronald. *Stoner & Spaz*. Candlewick Press, 2002.

Sixteen-year-old Ben, who has cerebral palsy, leads an insular life with his overprotective grandmother. But everything changes when he is befriended by drugaddicted classmate Colleen, and a neighbor introduces him to filmmaking and encourages him to make a movie about his high school. Strong language. For senior high readers.

Mazer, Henry and Peter Lerangis. *Somebody Please Tell Me Who I Am*. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers. 2012.

Wounded in Iraq while his Army unit is on convoy and treated for many months for traumatic brain injury, the first person Ben remembers from his earlier life is his brother who has autism. Grades 9-12. Winner of the 2012 Schneider Family Book Award.

\*Mellor, C. Michael. *Louis Braille: A Touch of Genius*. National Braille Press, 2006.

Biography of Louis Braille (1809-1852), a blind Frenchman who by age sixteen designed a code of raised dots enabling blind people to read and write easily. Discusses his schooling, his love of music, and the advantages of his tactile reading system. For junior and senior high.

\*Moore, Peter. *Blind Sighted*. Viking, 2001.

Eleventh-grader Kirk Tobak is moody and bored with school, his alcoholic mother, and druggie friends. His job reading for an independent young blind woman, with whom he discusses his problems, gives Kirk new insights. Some descriptions of sex and some strong language. For senior high readers. 121212

\*Rapp, Adam. *Under the Wolf, Under the Dog*. Candlewick Press, 2004.

Teenager Steve Nugent's journal describes his experiences in an institution for emotionally disturbed youth. While discussing his interactions with fellow patients, Steve recalls his mother's and brother's deaths, his father's depression, and his own self-destructive behavior. Strong language, some explicit descriptions of sex, and some violence. For senior high readers. Schneider Family Book Award, 2006.

\*Rorby, Ginny. *Hurt Go Happy*. Starscape, 2006.

Thirteen-year-old Joey Willis, deaf since age seven, has an overprotective mother who refuses to let her daughter learn sign language. When Joey meets neighbor Dr. Mansell and his sign-user chimpanzee Sukari, her world blooms with possibilities. But a crisis involving Sukari brings Joey some heavy responsibilities. For junior and senior high. Schneider Family Book Award, 2008.

\*Sachar, Louis. *Small Steps*. Delacorte Press, 2006.

Austin, Texas. Portrays the unexpected friendship between an African American teen with a juvenile record and a ten-year-old white girl with cerebral palsy. Their adventures and mishaps involving a popular teen singer cause some setbacks but they encourage each other to take small steps towards a better future. For junior and senior high.

Stork, Francisco X. *Marcelo in the Real World*. Arthur A. Levine Books. 2009.

Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance and injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mailroom of a corporate law firm. Grades 9-12. Winner of the 2010 Schneider Family Book Award.

\*Trueman, Terry. *Inside Out*. HarperCollins, 2003.

Sixteen-year-old Zach suffers from schizophrenia and, unless he takes his medication, hears voices that urge him to kill himself. When held hostage during a holdup, Zach resolves the crisis, learns about

himself, and helps others understand his disorder. Strong language and some violence. For senior high readers.

\*Trueman, Terry. *Stuck in Neutral*. HarperCollins, 2000.

Fourteen-year-old Shawn has a phenomenal memory for everything he's ever heard, but nobody knows it because his cerebral palsy has made him unable to communicate. Now Shawn suspects that his father, in a misguided plan to end the boy's pain, is planning to kill him. Some strong language. For junior and senior high readers. Printz Honor book.

Van Draanen, Wendelin. *The Running Dream*. Knopf. 2011.

When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb and her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again. Grades 8-12. Winner of the 2012 Schneider Family Book Award.

\*Weeks, Sarah. *So B. It*. Laura Geringer Books, 2004.

After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York state to find out who she is. With the help of some old photographs she uncovers family secrets. For grades 6 to 9.

Books with an asterisk (\*) were compiled by Patricia Steelman, Schneider Family Book Award Committee and Senior Selection Librarian, Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Revised: September, 2009

### **Additional Books with no Professional Reviews**

Band, Eve, and Emily Hecht. Illustrations by Sue Lynn Cotton. *Autism Through a Sister's Eyes: A Book for Children About High-Functioning Autism and Related Disorders*. Future Horizons. 2001.

Relates Emily's story about how she learned about autism, a disorder that her brother Daniel has. Grades 3-6.

Edwards, Becky. Illustrated by David Armitage. *My Brother Sammy is Special*. Sky Pony Press. 2011.

A boy describes some of the many feelings he has about his brother Sammy, who is autistic. Grades K-3.

Gehret, Jeanne. *The Don't Give Up Kid and Learning Disabilities*. Verbal Images Press. 2009.

Alex, a child with dyslexia, learns about his and other learning problems and what is done to solve them. Grades K-3.

Hallowell, Edward M. *A Walk in the Rain with the Brain*. Regan Books. 2004.

Lucy meets a brain that helps her realize that everyone is smart in different ways. Includes a discussion section for parents and teachers. For grades K-3.

Simmons, Karen. *Little Rainman: Autism Through the Eyes of a Child*. Future Horizons. 1996.

An illustrated account of how a child with autism thinks and feels written through the eyes of the author's son, Jonathan. Grades K-3.

## **Books that are Out of Print but May Still be in School Libraries**

Aiello, Barbara and Jeffrey Shulman. Illustrated by Loel Barr. *A Portrait of Me: Featuring Christine Kontos*. Twenty-First Century Books. 1989.

Eleven-year-old Christine copes successfully with her diabetes but finds it much more difficult to come to terms with the demands of her Greek-American heritage. Includes a section of questions and answers about diabetes and its treatment. Grades 3-6.

Aiello, Barbara and Jeffrey Shulman. Illustrated by Loel Barr. *Business is Looking Up: Featuring Renaldo Rodriguez*. Twenty-First Century Books. 1988.

When a visually-impaired eleven-year-old sets up a greeting card service for stepfamilies, he discovers there is a lot more to running a business than just making money. Includes a question and answer section about what it's like to be blind. Grades 3-6.

Aiello, Barbara and Jeffrey Shulman. Illustrated by Loel Barr. *Friends for Life: Featuring Amy Wilson*. Twenty-First Century Books. 1988.

When the members of the fifth-grade video club find out their club sponsor has AIDS, they have a variety of reactions before learning more about the disease and deciding to stick by her. Grades 3-6.

Aiello, Barbara, and Jeffrey Shulman. Illustrated by Loel Barr. *Hometown Hero: Featuring Scott Whittaker*. Twenty-First Century Books. 1989.

Fifth-grader Scott reveals in his diary how he copes with his asthma and the outcome of his encounter with a homeless person in the library. Includes questions and answers about asthma and its treatment. Grades 3-6.

Aiello, Barbara and Jeffrey Shulman. Illustrated by Loel Barr. *It's Your Turn at Bat: Featuring Mark Riley*. Twenty-First Century Books. 1988.

While reluctantly doing research on sewing machines for a school report, Mark, a fifth-grader with cerebral palsy, discovers that the money for his team's baseball jerseys that he was responsible for is missing, and he finds himself feeling more friendly towards sewing machines. Includes a question and answer section about what it's like to have cerebral palsy. Grades 3-6.

Aiello, Barbara and Jeffrey Shulman. Illustrated by Loel Barr. *Trick or Treat or Trouble: Featuring Brian McDaniel*. Twenty-First Century Books. 1989.

Just as friends sometimes misunderstand about his epilepsy, Brian's misconceptions about a funeral home are cleared up on Halloween night. Concludes with a question and answer section in which Brian discusses the causes and treatment of epilepsy. Grades 3-6.

Aseltine, Lorraine, Evelyn Mueller, Nancy Tait. Pictures by Helen Cogancherry. *I'm Deaf, and It's Okay*. A. Whitman & Co., 1986.

A young boy describes the frustrations caused by his deafness and the encouragement he receives from a deaf teenager that he can lead an active life. Grades K-3.

Bergman, Thomas. *We Laugh, We Love, We Cry: Children Living with Mental Retardation*. Gareth Stevens Children's Books. 1989.  
Describes the home life, physiotherapy, and schooling of two mentally retarded sisters. Grades 3-6.

Fort, Patrick. *Redbird*. Orchard. 1988.  
Red Bird, a small airplane, encounters numerous hazards as it attempts to land at the airport. Text is in Braille and in clear black type and raised pictures can be both felt and seen. Grades K-3.

Gordon, Melanie Apel. *Let's Talk About Dyslexia*. Hazeldon/PowerKids Press. 1999.  
Discusses a learning disability of approximately one in every ten people, including Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, and how to cope with it. Grades K-3.

Greenberg, Judith E. Photographs by Gayle Rothschild. *What is the Sign for Friend?* F. Watts. 1985.  
Text and photographs depict the life of Shane, a deaf child who goes to a regular school and enjoys normal activities with the help of sign language and a hearing aid. Grades K-3.

Lasker, Joe. *Nick Joins In*. A. Whitman. 1980.  
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. Grades K-3.

Lears, Laurie. *Ben Has Something to Say: A Story About Stuttering*. A. Whitman. 2000.  
In order to help a neglected dog which he sees at a junkyard, Ben, who stutters, begins to confront his fear of speaking. Grades K-3.

OShaughnessy, Ellen. Illustrations by David Garner. *Somebody Called Me a Retard Today—And My Heart Felt Sad*. Walker. 1992.  
A girl expresses her sadness at being called a "retard" by people who do not know how loving and self-reliant she is. Grades K-3.

Powers, Mary Ellen. *Our Teacher's in a Wheelchair*. A. Whitman. 1986.  
Text and photographs depict the activities of Brian Hanson, who is able to lead an active existence as a nursery school teacher despite a partial paralysis requiring the use of a wheelchair. Grades K-3.

Rosenberg, Maxine. Photographs by George Ancona. *My Friend Leslie: The Story of a Handicapped Child*. Lothrop. 1983.  
Presents a multi-handicapped kindergarten child, who is well-accepted by her classmates, in various situations within the school setting. Grades 3-6.

Senisi, Ellen B. *Just Kids: Visiting a Class for Children with Special Needs*. Dutton Children's Books. 1998.  
Second-grader Cindy is assigned to spend part of each day in the class for students with special needs, where she finds out that even though some kids may learn differently or have different abilities, they are all "just kids." Grades 3-6.



Wanous, Suzanne. Illustrated by Shelly O. Haas. *Sara's Secret*. Carolrhoda Books. 1995.  
At first Sara doesn't want anyone at her new school to know about her younger brother Justin, who has cerebral palsy. Grades K-3.

Wine, Angela. Illustrated by David Crary. *What It Is To Be Me: An Asperger Kid Book*. Christian Services Publishing. 2005.  
No description available. Grades 3-6.