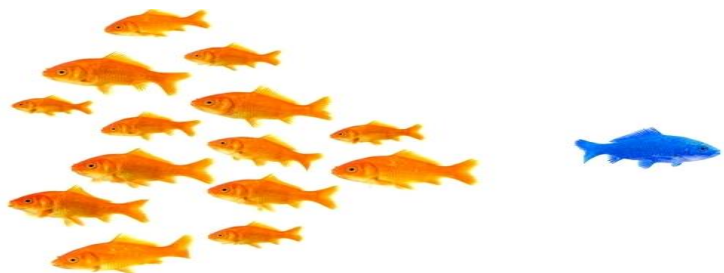


Being Different



Novels and picture books for children and young adults about children with special abilities or disabilities:

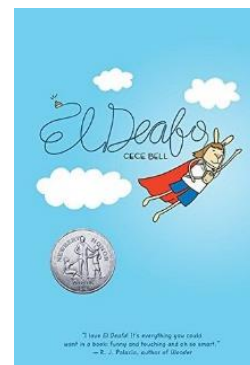
Anything But Typical by Nora Raleigh Baskin, 2009

Jason Blake is an autistic 12-year-old living in a neurotypical world. Most days it's just a matter of time before something goes wrong. But Jason finds a glimmer of understanding when he comes across PhoenixBird, who posts stories to the same online site as he does. Jason can be himself when he writes, and he thinks that PhoenixBird — her name is Rebecca — could be his first real friend. But as desperate as Jason is to meet her, he's terrified that if they do meet, Rebecca will only see his autism and not who Jason really is.



El Deafo by Cece Bell, David Lasky (Illustrator), 2014

Starting at a new school is scary, even more so with a giant hearing aid strapped to your chest! At her old school, everyone in Cece's class was deaf. Here she is different. She is 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 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? This is a funny, perceptive, **graphic novel memoir** about growing up hearing impaired



The Thing About Jellyfish by Ali Benjamin, 2015

After her best friend dies in a drowning accident, Suzy is convinced that the true cause of the tragedy must have been a rare jellyfish sting--things don't just happen for no reason. Retreating into a silent world of imagination, she crafts a plan to prove her theory--even if it means traveling the globe, alone. Suzy's achingly heartfelt journey explores life, death, the astonishing wonder of the universe...and the potential for love and hope right next door.



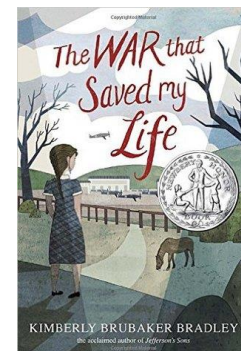
Mika & Max by Laura Bloom 2019

When 13-year-old Mika is forced to attend a music festival with her family, she resigns herself to hippies, heat and embarrassment. Nothing prepares her for Max, who's almost ten and has autism. When the two of them join forces, a series of unexpected and life-changing events unfold. An important story about friendship, growing up, taking risks and finding yourself.



The War That Saved My Life (The War That Saved My Life #1) by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, 2015

Nine-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. When her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute--she sneaks out to join him. So begins a new adventure for Ada, and for Susan Smith, the woman who is forced to take the two kids in. As Ada teaches herself to ride a pony, learns to read, and watches for German spies, she begins to trust Susan--and Susan begins to love Ada and Jamie. This masterful work of historical fiction is equal parts adventure, triumph against all odds, and a moving tale of family and identity during World War II.



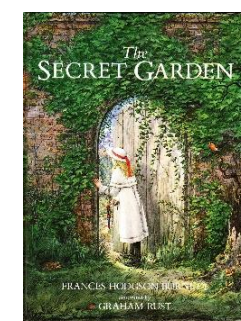
The War I Finally Won (The War That Saved My Life #2) by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley, 2017

Ada's clubfoot is surgically fixed at last and she comes to understand that her mother's taunting words couldn't be further from the truth. She and her brother Jamie move into a borrowed cottage with their legal guardian Susan, where they meet a Jewish girl from Germany named Ruth. As the effects of war become more frightening and Ada and Ruth begin to form a friendship, Ada begins to see the world differently and finally learns what love really means. A tale of courage set in England during the dark days of World War II, that concludes Kimberly Brubaker Bradley's classic story about family, identity and a young girl learning her value and finding a home.



The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett, 1911- **Book and Film**

A young British girl leaves her home in India to escape the cholera and stays with her reclusive uncle and his staff in his English countryside manor. On one of her many lonely walks around the grounds, she discovers a secret garden and makes it her mission to learn as much as she can about it with the help of a young boy, Dickon and her cousin, Colin who allegedly suffers from a spinal malformation. An enduring and timeless children's classic.



Jessica's Box by Peter Carnavas

The original Jessica's Box was published in 2008 and it has since been re-commissioned by the Cerebral Palsy Alliance and Peter Carnavas has redrawn the illustrations showing Jessica in a wheelchair. The text has remained the same, so there is no written mention of her disability. Jessica is starting school. She expects and plans to make many friends. The illustration of her first day at school shows her sitting in her wheelchair, carrying a box.

The text, 'At first, nobody noticed', creates an additional poignancy in this version because readers may assume that what nobody noticed is the wheelchair. But the next picture shows that it is the box that incites curiosity.



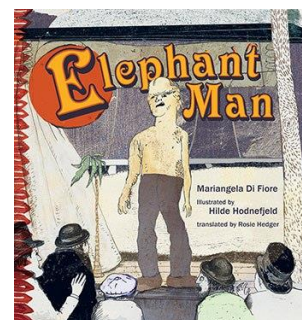
What Katy Did by Susan Coolidge, 1872- **Book and Film**

Katy is a girl of twelve who hates sewing, tears her dress every day and doesn't care to be what her Aunt Izzie wants her to be: 'A good little girl'. Katy is very imaginative and longs for the day when she will 'do something grand'. One day, Katy falls off a swing and injures her spine. She might have to be confined to bed for the rest of her life – a calamitous tragedy for an energetic, spirited young girl like Katy. Her cousin Helen comes to visit her, and Katy confides in Helen all her hopes and fears. Helen is an invalid herself and she helps Katy by talking to her and by helping her manage her difficult situation. Helen calls this attending to the 'School of Pain'.



Elephant Man by Mariangela Di Fiore, Hilde Hodnefeld (Illustrator), translated by Rosie Hedger, 2015 **Book and Film**

This is a fictionalised account of Joseph Merrick's life and there is clearly the thread of authentic historical detail. It is cleverly interspersed with sensitive illustrations which are facsimiles of original documents and photos. This is not a picture book for younger readers but rather for use in conjunction with some classroom experience relating to disabilities, awareness and empathy.



The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd, 2008

When Ted and Kat watched their cousin, Salim, get on board the London Eye, he turned and waved before getting on. After half an hour it landed, and everyone trooped off - but no Salim. Where could he have gone? How on earth could he have disappeared into thin air? Since the police are having no luck finding him, Ted and Kat become sleuthing partners. Despite their prickly relationship, they overcome their differences to follow a trail of clues across London in a desperate bid to find their cousin. And ultimately it comes down to Ted, whose brain works in its own unique way, to find the key to the mystery. Sequel is **The Guggenheim Mystery**.



Out of My Mind by Sharon M. Draper, 2010

Eleven-year-old Melody is not like most people. She can't walk. She can't talk. She can't write. All because she has cerebral palsy. But she also has a photographic memory; she can remember every detail of everything she has ever experienced. She's the smartest kid in her whole school, but NO ONE knows it. Most people—her teachers, her doctors, her classmates—dismiss her as mentally challenged because she can't tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by her disability. And she's determined to let everyone know it...somehow.



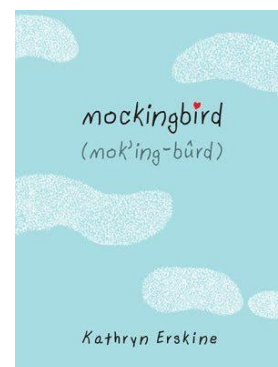
How to Fly with Broken Wings by Jane Elson, 2015

Twelve-year-old Willem has Asperger's Syndrome and two main aims in life: to fly and to make at least two friends of his own age. But all the other boys from the Beckham Estate do is make him jump off things. First his desk - and now the wall. As his toes teeter on the edge, Sasha Bradley gives him a tiny little wink. Might she become his friend? Bullied by Finn and his gang the Beckham Estate Boyz, Willem has no choice but to jump. As he flies through the air, he flaps his arms, wishing he could fly and escape into the clouds.



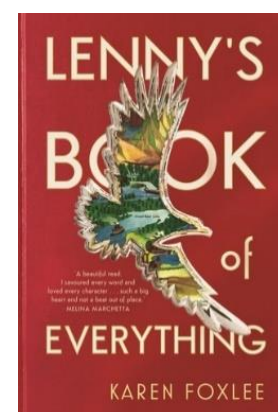
Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine, 2018

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 colours—messy and beautiful.



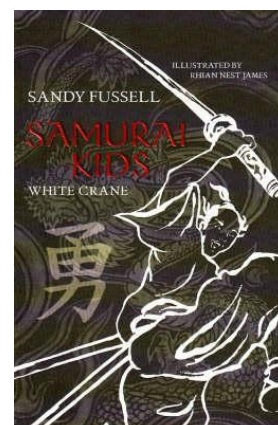
Lenny's Book of Everything by Karen Foxlee, 2018

Lenny, small and sharp, has a younger brother Davey who won't stop growing - and at seven is as tall as a man. Raised by their single mother, who works two jobs and is made almost entirely out of worries, they have food and a roof over their heads, but not much else. The bright spot every week is the arrival of the latest issue of Burrell's Build-It-at-Home Encyclopedia. Through the encyclopedia, Lenny and Davey experience the wonders of the world - beetles, birds, quasars, quartz - and dream about a life of freedom and adventure, visiting places like Saskatchewan and Yellowknife, and the gleaming lakes of the Northwest Territories. But as her brother's health deteriorates, Lenny comes to accept the inevitable truth; Davey will never make it to Great Bear Lake.



White Crane (Samurai Kids #1) by Sandy Fussell, Rhian Nest James (Illustrator), 2008

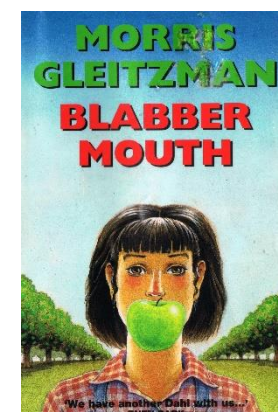
Niya Moto is the only one-legged Samurai kid in Japan, famous for falling flat on his face in the dirt. The one school that will accept him is the Cockroach Ryu, led by the legendary sensei Ki-Yaga. He may be an old man overly fond of naps, but Ki-Yaga is also known for taking in kids that the world has judged harshly: an albino girl with extra fingers and toes, a boy who is blind, a big kid whose past makes him loathe to fight. A warrior in his time, Ki-Yaga demands excellence in everything from sword-fighting to poetry. But can the rag-tag Cockroaches make the treacherous journey to the Samurai Trainee Games, never mind take on the all-conquering Dragons? In a fast-moving, action-filled tale that draws on true details of feudal Japan, Niya finds there's no fear they can't face as long as they stick together - for their friendship is more powerful than a samurai sword.



Sequels are **Owl Ninja**, **Shaolin Tiger**, **Monkey Fist**, **Fire Lizard**, **Golden Bat**, **Red Fox**, and **Black Tengu**.

Blabbermouth by Morris Gleitzman, 2010.

A humorous novel starring a well-meaning heroine who is tempestuous and larger-than-life—and who was born mute. Rowena Batts' inability to speak doesn't stop her from talking up a storm. She uses sign language for those who understand, carries a pad to write notes to those who don't, and her actions are especially expressive when she is angry—for example, when she stuffs a frog into the class bully's mouth, then tapes it shut. Her only real problem is her father and his penchant for embarrassing her in public.



Sequels are **Sticky Beak** and **Gift of the Gab**.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon, 2012

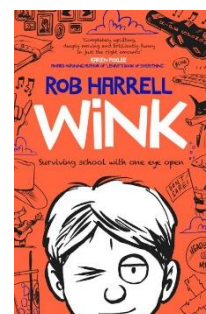
'Lots of things are mysteries. But that doesn't mean there isn't an answer to them'

This is Christopher's murder mystery story. There are also no lies in this story because Christopher can't tell lies. Christopher does not like strangers or the colours yellow or brown or being touched. On the other hand, he knows all the countries in the world and their capital cities and every prime number up to 7507. When Christopher decides to find out who killed the neighbour's dog, his mystery story becomes more complicated than he could have ever predicted.



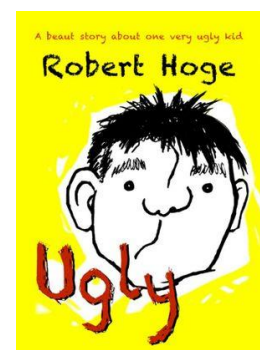
Wink by Rob Harrell 2020

Surviving school with one eye open. Ross Maloy just wants to fit in. But after he is diagnosed with a rare eye cancer in Year Seven, he suddenly becomes the 'cancer kid' of his school. Now he has to deal with weird hats, a squinty eye and - hardest of all - disappearing friends, social media bullies, and the threat of losing his eyesight ... or worse.



Ugly (Young Readers Edition) by Robert Hoge, 2013

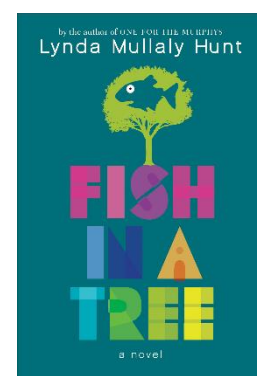
Robert Hoge was born with a tumour in the middle of his face, and legs that weren't much use. There wasn't another baby like him in the whole of Australia, let alone Brisbane. But the rest of his life wasn't so unusual: he had a mum and a dad, brothers and sisters, friends at school and in his street. He had childhood scrapes and days at the beach; fights with his family and trouble with his teachers. He had doctors, too: lots of doctors who, when he was still very young, removed that tumour from his face and operated on his legs, then stitched him back together. He still looked different, though. He still looked ... ugly. Ugly is the true story of how an extraordinary boy grew up to have an ordinary life, and how that became his greatest achievement of all.



Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt, 2015

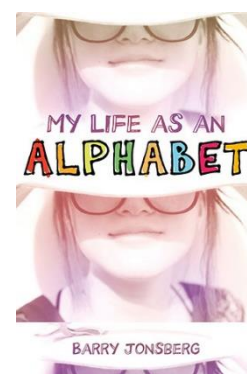
"Everybody is smart in different ways. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its life believing it is stupid."

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the troublemaker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities.



My Life as an Alphabet by Barry Jonsberg 2013

Introducing Candice Phee: twelve years old, hilariously honest and a little odd. But she has a big heart, the very best of intentions and an unwavering determination to ensure everyone is happy. So she sets about trying to 'fix' all the problems of all the people [and pets] in her life. Award winning book about to become a film.



The Theory of Hummingbirds by Michelle Kadarusman, 2017

"Hummingbirds and angels don't need two good feet. They have wings."

That's what Alba's mother always says. Of course, Alba doesn't have wings or two good feet: she has Cleo. Cleo is the name Alba has given to her left club foot, which was born twisted in the wrong direction. After one final surgery and one final cast, Cleo is almost ready to meet the world straight on--just in time to run in the sixth-grade cross-country race. Unfortunately, Alba's best friend Levi thinks there's no way she can pull it off. Tempers flare. Sharp words fly faster than hummingbirds. And soon it looks like both friends will be stuck proving their theories on their own. A gentle, hopeful, and wholly innocent portrayal of a sixth-grade girl dealing with being different.



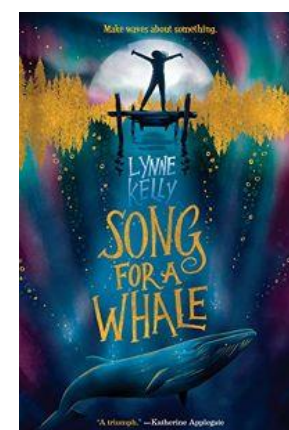
The Thing about Oliver by Deborah Kelly, 2019

'Sometimes I feel just like the glass in my fish tank-- people look right through me.' Twelve-year-old Tilly dreams of becoming a marine scientist, but she doesn't even own a swimsuit. She lives in a drought- stricken town with her mum and younger brother Oliver, who is autistic. Oliver's meltdowns are making life unbearable. He needs so many different kinds of therapy that there's never any time--or money--left over for swimming lessons. Tilly knows Oliver's needs have to come first, but it's hard feeling invisible all the time. When Mum announces they are moving to the Queensland coast, Tilly is excited at the thought of finally learning to swim--even snorkel! But she is also worried. The thing about Oliver is, he can't cope with even the tiniest of changes to his routine. It isn't long before the cracks begin to show. Could so many changes all at once threaten to shatter the whole family?



Song for a Whale by Lynne Kelly, 2019

Iris was born deaf, but she's never let that define her; after all, it's the only life she's ever known. And until recently she wasn't even very lonely, because her grandparents are both deaf, too. But Grandpa has just died and Grandma's not the same without him. The only place Iris really feels at home anymore is in her electronics workshop where she loves taking apart antique radios. Then, during a science lesson about sound waves, Iris finds out about a whale who is unable to communicate with other whales. The lonely whale awakens something in Iris. She's determined to show him that someone in the world knows he's there. A stirring and heart-warming tale of a young deaf girl who is determined to make a difference.



Rescue & Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship by Jessica

Kensky & Patrick Downes, Scott Magoon (Illustrator), 2018

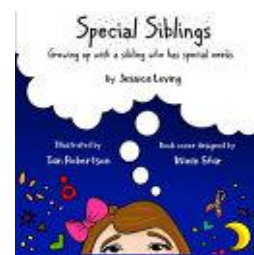
Based on the true-life partnership of double-amputee Jessica (injured in the Boston Marathon bombing) and her service dog Rescue this is a book which will give young readers a real insight into the difficulties of living with a disability and how so many people are assisted with a trained service dog. This book centres on a little girl called Jessica who faces the same tragedy as the grownups in losing both her legs. Rescue starts out as a Seeing Eye dog trainee but doesn't quite meet the criteria. However, when his trainer decides he would make a perfect Service dog all falls into place perfectly.



Special Siblings: Growing up with a sibling who has special needs

by Jessica Leving and Wiem Sfar, Ian Robertson (Illustrator), 2019

Growing up with a sibling who has special needs can be hard. But it can also be... awesome! Based on the author's real-life experiences, this unique and touching children's book explores how siblings of kids with disabilities are special, too.

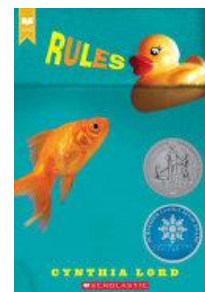


Rules

by Cynthia Lord, 2008

Frustrated with a life that revolves around the needs of her autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a "normal" existence but instead finds her world further complicated and enriched by friendship with a young paraplegic.

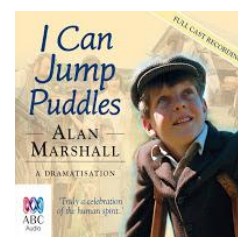
This 2007 Newbery Honour Book is a humorous and heart-warming debut about feeling different and finding acceptance.



I Can Jump Puddles

by Alan Marshall, 1955 **Book and Film**

I Can Jump Puddles is Alan Marshall's story of his childhood - a happy world in which, despite his crippling poliomyelitis, he plays, climbs, fights, swims, rides and laughs. His world was the Australian countryside early last century: rough-riders, bushmen, farmers and tellers of tall stories - a world held precious by the young Alan Marshall.



A Mango-Shaped Space

by Wendy Mass, 2003

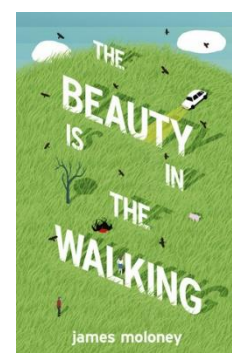
Mia Winchell appears to be a typical kid, but she's keeping a big secret—sounds, numbers, and words have colour for her. No one knows, and Mia wants to keep it that way. But when trouble at school finally forces Mia to reveal her secret, she must learn to accept herself and embrace her ability, called synaesthesia, a mingling of the senses.



The Beauty is in the Walking

by James Moloney, 2015

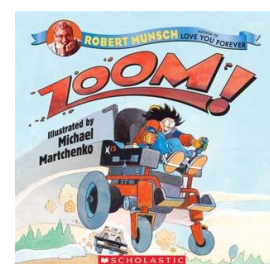
Adolescence can be difficult enough without the added burden of unrequited love, racial tension and cerebral palsy. When the not-so-sleepy town of Palmerston is under threat from a disturbing and mystifying crime Jacob O'Leary grabs the chance to defend the new kid in town and get out in front of the pack to keep mob rule at bay. He's convinced that the police have accused the wrong guy; that the real villain is still out there. And he's determined to prove it -- and himself -- to everyone. **YA**



Zoom!

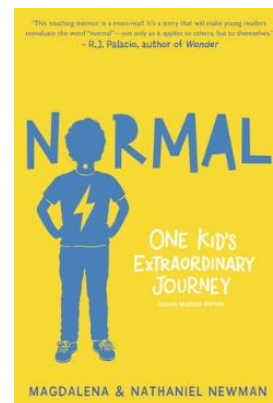
by Robert Munsch, Michael Martchenko (Illustrator), 2004

Young daredevil Lauretta puts her brand-new wheelchair to the ultimate test--and saves her brother! Lauretta's mother takes her to buy a new wheelchair, but Lauretta isn't satisfied with a regular five-speed or ten-speed model. No, she insists on the 92-speed, black, silver, and red dirt-bike wheelchair. When she gets a speeding ticket during a one-day tryout, her parents insist that the chair be returned to the store . . . until Lauretta's older brother has an accident and only one person can whisk him to the hospital on time--Lauretta, in her amazing wheelchair!



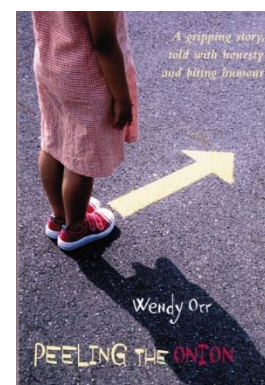
Normal: One Kid's Extraordinary Journey by Magdalena Newman and Nathaniel Newman, 2020

Normal. Who is to say what this word means? For Magda Newman, it was a goal. She wanted her son Nathaniel to be able to play on the playground, swim at the beach, enjoy the moments his friends took for granted. But Nathaniel's severe Treacher Collins syndrome--a craniofacial condition--meant that other concerns came first. Could he eat without the aid of a gastrointestinal tube? Could he hear? Would he ever be able to breathe effortlessly? But Nathaniel looks at "normal" from a completely different perspective. In this uplifting and humorous memoir that includes black-and-white comic illustrations, mother and son tell the story of his growing up--from facing sixty-seven surgeries before the age of fifteen, to making friends, moving across the country, and persevering through hardships.



Peeling the Onion by Wendy Orr, 2007

Following an automobile accident in which her neck is broken, a teenage karate champion begins a long and painful recovery with the help of her family. The car accident changed everything. Before, Anna knew who she was and what she looked like - a pretty, popular girl who loved karate. But now she's a stranger to her family, her friends, and even herself. Anna's body has betrayed her, and she knows it will never be the same. All the layers that made up the old Anna - her looks, her friends, her sport-have been peeled away, leaving her to face the question of who she really is, and what she wants to be.



Wonder by R. J. Palacio, 2012 **Book and Film**

'My name is August. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.'

Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things - eating ice cream, playing on his Xbox. He feels ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go. Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted - but can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all? Sequel is **Augie and Me: Three Wonder Stories**



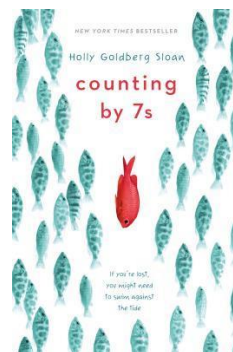
She is Not Invisible by Marcus Sedgwick, 2013

Laureth's father is a writer. For years he's been trying, and failing, to write a novel about coincidence. His wife thinks he's obsessed. Laureth thinks he's on the verge of a breakdown. He's supposed to be doing research in Austria, so when his notebook shows up in New York, Laureth knows something is wrong. On impulse, she steals her mother's credit card and heads for the States, taking her strange little brother Benjamin with her. Reunited with the notebook, they begin to follow clues inside, trying to find their wayward father. But the challenges and threats that lie ahead are even tougher for Laureth than they would be for any other teenager - because Laureth is blind and has no vision to guide her.



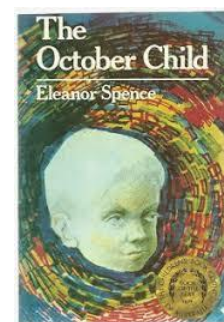
Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan, 2013

Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. It has never been easy for her to connect with anyone other than her adoptive parents, but that hasn't kept her from leading a quietly happy life...until now. Suddenly Willow's world is tragically changed when her parents both die in a car crash, leaving her alone in a baffling world. The triumph of this book is that it is not a tragedy. This extraordinarily odd, but extraordinarily endearing, girl manages to push through her grief. Her journey to find a fascinatingly diverse and fully believable surrogate family is a joy and a revelation to read.



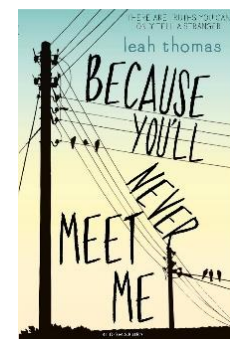
The October Child by Eleanor Spence, Malcolm Green (Illustrator), 1976

Spence doesn't use the term anywhere in the book, but describes exactly the tendencies and habits of an autistic child and the impact this can have on a family. The new baby wreaks havoc on this quiet family. It strains relationships, exhausts the mum, alienates one of the siblings and causes the whole family to move to the city to be near a special school exacerbating all their difficulties to breaking point. There is no happy, hopeful ending; but a realistic, thoughtful ending instead. Book of the Year in 1977.



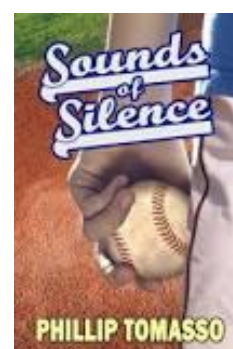
Because You'll Never Meet Me by Leah Thomas, 2015

Ollie and Moritz are two teenagers who will never meet. Each of them lives with a life-affecting illness. Contact with electricity sends Ollie into debilitating seizures, while Moritz has a heart defect and is kept alive by an electronic pacemaker. If they did meet, Ollie would seize, but turning off the pacemaker would kill Moritz. Through an exchange of letters, the two boys develop a strong bond of friendship which becomes a lifeline during dark times – until Moritz reveals that he holds the key to their shared, sinister past, and has been keeping it from Ollie all along.



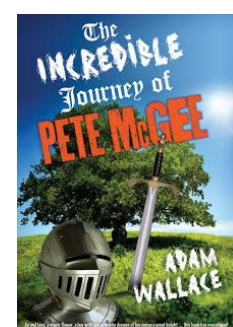
Sounds of Silence by Phillip Tomasso III, 2013

Twelve-year-old Marco Lippa is the star pitcher for his Little League baseball team and does his best to lead his team to victory against their cross-town rivals, revelling in the cheering and applause. After one particular game, he becomes sick and is rushed to the hospital. Treated for meningococcal disease, Marco wakes up to discover that he is deaf—and all his dreams seem to crumble. Now Marco must come to terms with living in a silent world—and the grief, anger, and loss that seem to go with it.



The Incredible Journey of Pete McGee by Adam Wallace, 2018

A boy with one arm who dreams of becoming a great knight. His mother, dying from a mysterious illness, is the only one who believes in him. An evil king hungry for power at any cost. Two servants of the king, in love but torn apart. Evil invisible monsters that kill for fun. A magic flower that will change all of their lives. There's good versus evil. There's magic. There's love, there's adventure and there's lots, lots more. This book has everything! Except giraffes. It doesn't have any giraffes. Sorry. I hope you like it anyway.



Sick Bay by Nova Weetman, 2019

Two very different Grade 6 girls meet in their school sick bay. Meg is a loner. Grieving over the death of her father, and struggling with changes at home, she wears slippers to school and hides out in sick bay to avoid other kids. New girl Riley is a Type 1 diabetic and already popular. She doesn't want to go to sick bay, but sometimes she must if she's having a high or a low. As Meg and Riley are forced to spend more and more time together in the cramped sick bay room, they start to uncover each other's secrets and find the courage to be who they really are.



Everything I've Never Said by Samantha Wheeler, 2018

Ava would like nothing more than to tell her family she loves them, particularly her big sister, Nic. But Ava has Rett syndrome - she can't talk, can't nod her head, can't even point at a communication card. She understands everything, but no one understands her. When tragedy strikes her family, Ava becomes even more determined to talk. But it's not until she meets occupational therapist Kieran and new friend Aimee that she is hopeful for change - and to find her voice at last.



Window Boy by Andrea White, 2008

Set in 1968, this touching novel tells the story of Sam Davis, a young man with cerebral palsy who peers through his bedroom window every day at the school he longs to attend. With great determination and the help of both his caretaker and his imaginary friend, Winston Churchill, Sam not only succeeds in gaining admittance to the school and the acceptance of his peers, but also fulfils his dream of becoming the school's basketball coach. The narrative, full of poignant insights into attitudes toward people with disabilities, provides a glimpse into the life of Winston Churchill, who is a key inspiration for young Sam.



Ride High Pineapple by Jenny Woolsey

The school year has just begun for thirteen-year-old, Isabella Burgess in Year Nine. The human problem she hoped would go away over the Summer, has returned. Her name – Tia. Issy calls her The Beast for short. The Beast greets Issy each day with 'Hey Poppy Eyes', 'Hey Flatface', or other cruel taunts, making fun of her facial difference. Along with The Beast problem, Issy experiences friendship woes with her best friend, Tilly; a crush on the cutest boy in her class, Tim; and she battles her anxiety which has a firm hold on her. Issy must find a way to overcome all her problems and gain control over her life, before she loses her mind. Will her passion for skateboarding provide the answers she needs?



Compiled by Dajo Finlayson and Mia Macrossan 2020
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