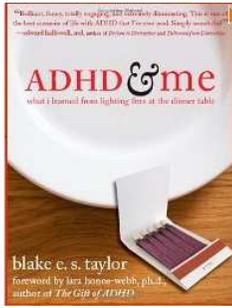


Bibliography Grades 4-12

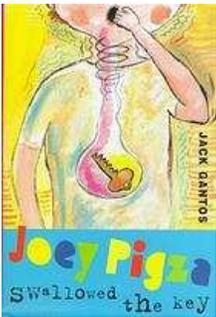
1. **ADHD**
 - ADHD and Me: What I Learned from Lighting Fires at the Dinner Table (9-12)
 - Joey Pigza Series (6-10)
 - Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key
 - Joey Pigza Loses Control
 - What Would Joey Do?
 - I Am Not Joey Pigza
2. **Autism**
 - Al Capone Does My Shirts (5-8)
 - Al Capone Shines My Shoes (5-8)
 - Anything But Typical (8-11)
 - Born On A Blue Day (10-12)
 - House Rules (10-12)
 - Look Me in the Eye (10-12)
 - Marcelo in the Real World (9-12)
 - Rules (6-8)
 - The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (9-12)
 - Thinking in Pictures: My Life with Autism (10-12)
3. **Blindness**
 - Blindsided (9-11)
 - Can You Feel the Thunder? (4-8)
 - Tangerine (7-10)
 - Things Not Seen (8-12)
 - Things That Are (8-12)
4. **Cerebral Palsy**
 - Accidents of Nature (9-12)
 - Cruise Control (9-12)
 - Reaching for Sun (5-8)
 - Stuck in Neutral (9-12)
5. **Deafness**
 - Hurt Go Happy (9-12)
6. **Developmental Disabilities**
 - A Different Life: Growing Up Learning Disabled and Other Adventures (10-12)
 - Ben, King of the River (4-6)
7. **Down syndrome**
 - The Memory Keeper's Daughter (10-12)
8. **Tourette syndrome**
 - Front of the Class: How Tourette Syndrome Made Me the Teacher I Never Had (10-12)
 - Jerk California (10-12)
9. **Misc.**
 - Becoming Naomi Leon (6-8)
 - My Thirteenth Winter: A Memoir (9-12)
 - Tending to Grace (6-8)
 - Waiting for Normal (6-8)

ADHD



Taylor, Blake, E. S. ADHD and Me: What I Learned From Lighting Fires at the Dinner Table. Oakland, C.A.: New Harbinger Publications, 2007. Grades 9-12.

When Blake Taylor was 17 he decided to write a young man's account of what it's like to live and grow up with ADHD. Throughout his young life he had to foil bullies, confront unfair teachers, and struggle with constant distractions and disorganization due to ADHD. He was constantly isolated from the mainstream of young people. He was criticized and yelled at but was rarely understood. His mom first suspected that he had ADHD when he tried to push his infant sister in her baby seat off the kitchen table and he was only 3 years old! As he grew up he accidentally launched rockets into his neighbor's swimming pool and set off alarms at museums. One evening he accidentally sets fire to the dinner table by acting without thinking. The book is written for kids by a kid. It is a funny, engaging book for all.



Gantos, Jack. Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998. Grades 6-10.

American Library Association Notable Children's Book

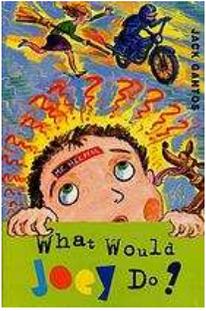
Joey Pigza has ADHD and he is constantly getting into trouble because he is so revved up. He likes to put a key on a piece of string and then swallow it, just to get attention. Then he pulls on the string getting the key back. One time when he swallowed the key it was not on the string. Then Joey couldn't get into his house! Joey is so wired that he often puts the tip of his finger into a pencil sharpener just to see what will happen. One day he actually cut the tip off another student's nose by mistake. After that incident, Joey was suspended from school and sent to the Special Education Center to get some help. Even though he is on medication for ADHD, it is not very effective but finally a doctor is able to give Joey a "patch" which gives him medication on a regular basis. Joey is finally able to get his life back on track a little bit. This book is fast moving and very humorous. Joey is clearly a kid at risk and the author writes a compelling tale of how he handles his unusual circumstances.



Gantos, Jack. Joey Pigza Loses Control. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000. Grades 6-10.

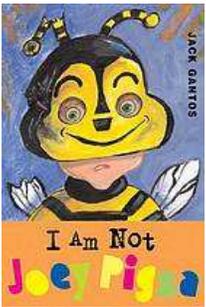
Newberry Honor Book

Joey can now exercise a reasonable amount of self control as long as he takes his medication. He is doing well in school and isn't getting into very much trouble. As a reward, Joey's mom lets him spend part of the summer with his dad, who is as "wired" as Joey. Dad tells Joey that the medication patches are no longer necessary and Joey promptly flushes them down to toilet! Dad is positive that Joey can succeed without his medicine as long as Joey wants to succeed. Joey slowly begins to lose control over his behavior without his medicine patch and dad is no help at all. Joey's desire to please his dad is the chief conflict here, because even Joey can sense his dad is making dangerous decisions which will ultimately affect Joey's future.



Gantos, Jack. What Would Joey Do?. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002. Grades 6-10

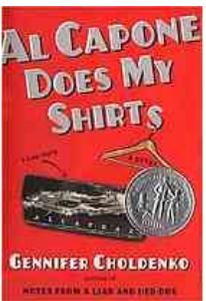
Joey Pigza certainly has a dysfunctional family and an unstable life. He lives with his mom and is always trying to get her attention but her mind is on everything else. His dad is back in town and he, too, is trying to get the attention of Joey's mom. This only results in screaming matches and a restraining order. Joey's elderly grandmother wants to die and keeps smoking cigarettes discussing her impending death. Joey is the most sane person in the Pigza home because he is using a medication patch to control his ADD. Joey is now being home-schooled and ready to make friends with other kids. He takes on responsibly by helping out at the nearby store and offers good advice to his parents and grandmother. Joey is able to cope with his problems and is starting to grow up. Too bad the adults in his life are not ready to grow up.



Gantos, Jack. I Am Not Joey Pigza. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007. Grades 6-10.

Joey Pigza has been doing pretty well for a while now. He's using his medication patch for his ADD regularly. His mom has been happy and he likes his newest teacher at school. Things would be perfect if it weren't for his father, Carter Pigza. One day Carter arrives at Joey's front door with some strange news. He won the lottery and changed his name to Carter Heinz. Now he wants Joey and his mom to join him in his newest moneymaking scheme. The family moves to the country to renovate and open the Beehive, roadside diner. Of course, things do not go smoothly and Joey's world is turned upside down. Suddenly the boy is ripped out of his happy existence into "Carter's" nutty world. Joey is renamed Freddy Heinz and all the progress he's made is put to the test. At the heart of this story, however, is Carter's search for Joey's forgiveness and Joey's struggle to figure out what it means to forgive someone who is truly repentant and, at the same time, truly dangerous to be around.

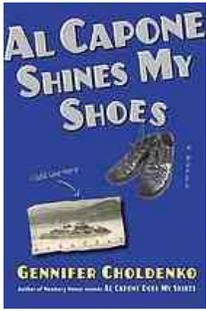
Autism



Choldenko, Jennifer. Al Capone Does My Shirts. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2004. Grades 5-8.

2005 Newberry Honor Book

Moose Flannagan and his family moved to the island of Alcatraz so his dad could get a good job as a guard and his sister could go to a special school. In the 1930's, the diagnosis of Autism was rare but that did not mean that Autism did not exist. Natalie Flannagan was different. She had a button collection and she could tell just by looking at the box how many buttons were in the collection. She could do amazing mathematical calculations but she could not carry on a conversation with the other kids. Natalie had Autism. Moose goes out of his way to protect Natalie but still tries to live up to his parent's expectations of being a "good boy". He keeps running into trouble and it is never his fault. Did he actually make a connection with the notorious Al Capone?



Choldenko, Gennifer. Al Capone Shines My Shoes. New York: Dial Books for young Readers, 2009. Grades 5-8.

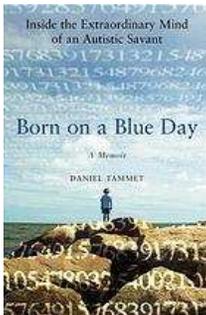
Moose Flanagan and his family are still on the island of Alcatraz so that his sister, Natalie, could attend a special school due to her Autism. No one knows that Moose was able to arrange for Natalie to attend this school by getting help from none other than the most famous gangster at Alcatraz, Al Capone, himself. Then one day Moose gets a note in his personal laundry from Al Capone saying “Your Turn”. Al Capone wants some payback for his favor. But if anyone finds out that Moose is conspiring with one of the prisoners, his father could lose his job. And worse, they might pull Natalie from the Esther P. Marinoff School, where she is doing very well. Moose could be in a world of trouble. This book is a sequel to the Newberry Honor book, *Al Capone Does My Shirts* by the same author.



Baskin, Nora Raleigh. Anything But Typical. New York: Simon Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2009. Grades 8-11.

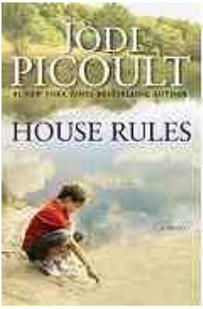
2009 Schneider Award Winner

Jason Blake is a 12 year old boy with autism who realizes that most days it is just a matter of time before something goes wrong and it is his entire fault – or is it the fault of his autism, he wonders. Now in sixth grade, Jason does not fit in and cannot relate to other students in his grade level so he writes stories, posting them on a website. Here he meets PhoenixBird, a young girl who also posts her stories. Jason finds he can be himself when he writes and he actually thinks that PhoenixBird (aka Rebecca) could be his first real friend. This story which is told in the first person explores the obstacles that Jason faces and his determination to be himself at all costs.



Tammet, Daniel. Born On A Blue Day. New York: Free Press, 2007. Grades 9-12.

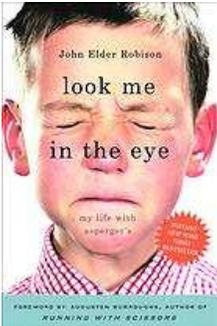
This is a unique first person account into the mind of a 27 year old British man with Asperger’s syndrome. Daniel Tammet does not have the ability to think abstractly, communicate, empathize with others and interact with the general population BUT he is capable of incredible feats of memorization and mental calculation. He can effortlessly multiply and divide huge sums in his head with the speed and accuracy of a computer. Once he actually learned the very difficult Icelandic language in a single week. Another time he recited the number pi up to the 22,514th digit breaking a European record. The book traces his life from a frustrated and withdrawn child and adolescent to his adult achievements. He explains how he is able to process his amazing ideas and how he is able to think and dwell in the 21st century world. This book is an interesting, intriguing account of his life with Asperger’s Syndrome. He has the ability to write and express his ideas clearly in an engaging manner.



Picoult, Jodi. House Rules. New York: Atria Books, 2010. Grades 10-12.

Jacob Hunt is a teenage boy with Aspergers Syndrome. He cannot read social cues, cannot express himself well to others, has twitching and tics, cannot look others in the eye, but yet he is brilliant in many ways. Jacob loves forensic analysis. After receiving a police scanner, he often arrives at crime scenes ahead of the police and tries to tell the police what to do and he is usually right. When his town is rocked by a horrific murder of Jacob's tutor, his unusual behaviors common to those with Asperger's Syndrome make him the prime suspect

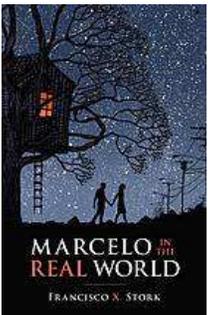
in her murder.



Robison, John Elder. Look Me in the Eye: My Life With Aspergers. New York: Crown Publishers, 2007. Grades 9-12.

Ever since he was young, John Robison wanted to connect with other people but he just couldn't. As early as nursery school, he could not connect with kids his own age. Throughout elementary school he misread social cues, body language and facial expressions and was labeled as "odd" by the other kids. By the time he was a teenager, his habits (blurting out remarks, no eye contact, dismantling radios, digging holes) had given him a label of "social deviant". John just wanted to be normal. This is especially hard when

his dad is an abusive alcoholic and his mom has a mental illness. After failing in junior high school, some astute teachers recognized his ability to fix machines, putting him to work in the audio visual department where he discovered his infatuation with machines. This led him to a variety of jobs including developing computerized toys for Milton Bradley, and developing the guitar with rockets for the rock band, KISS. Finally at the age of 40 as he set up a repair shop for repairing high end automobiles, he is finally diagnosed with Asperger's.

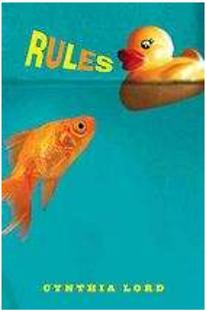


Stork, Francisco. Marcelo In the Real World. New York: Arthur A. Levine books, 2009. Grades 9-12.

2010 Schneider Family Award Winner

Marcelo Sandoval hears music no one else can hear – part of the autism-like symptom that no doctor has been able to identify--and he has always attended a special school with other students who were viewed as different. He has been protected from the outside world his entire life. Suddenly things change during the summer before his senior year of high school.

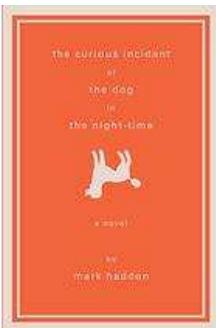
His father demands that Marcelo work in his law firm's mailroom in order to experience the "real world". There Marcelo meets Jasmine, his beautiful and surprising co-worker, and Wendell, the son of another partner, who tries to manipulate Marcelo. While working in the "real world", Marcelo grows up, learns about competition, jealousy, anger and desire. But it's a picture that he finds in a file of a young girl with half of a face that truly connects him with the real world – its suffering, its injustice and he vows to fight for this young girl's rights and get her justice. This is an intense yet pure novel which is a love story, a legal drama and a story of a young man growing up in an imperfect world.



Lord, Cynthia. Rules. New York: Scholastic Press, 2006. Grades 6-8.

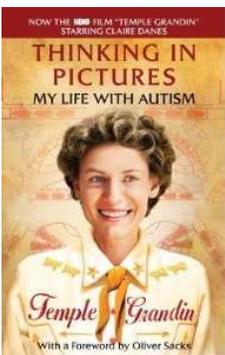
Newberry Honor Book
2007 Schneider Book Award

Catherine is a 12 year old girl with a younger brother, David, who has autism. Catherine loves her brother but feels embarrassed by his behavior and feels that her parents do not understand her feelings at all. In order to have a “normal” relationship with David, Catherine invents rules that David must follow. Each chapter title is a rule and there are more throughout the book as the situation necessitates rules. Finally a girl moves in next door and Catherine imagines that this girl will become her true best friend but is very anxious over her friend’s reaction to David. In reality, Catherine’s true best friend is not the girl next door but a young man, Jason, who she meets at David’s therapy. Jason has paraplegia and can not speak so he uses a book of pictures to communicate with others. Catherine begins to understand that friendship can occur on a variety of levels and ways.



Haddon, Mark. The Curious Incident of the Dog In the Night-Time. New York: Doubleday, 2003. Grades 9-12.

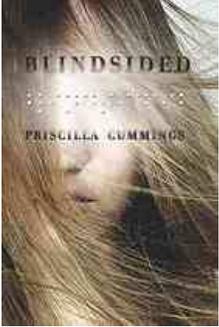
Christopher Boone is a 15 year old who has Aspergers Syndrome. He knows a great deal about Math but very little about people. When he finds his neighbor’s dog murdered in a gruesome manner, he sets out to figure out who was responsible for this horrific act. His investigation leads him down some unexpected paths and ultimately brings him face to face with the dissolution of his parents' marriage. As he tries to deal with the crisis within his own family, we are drawn into the workings of Christopher's mind. Christopher’s dramatic moments are chronicled by a boy who cannot fathom emotion which makes this book a special read for high school students.



Grandin, Temple. Thinking In Pictures: My Life With Autism. New York: Vintage Books, 2006. Grades 9-12.

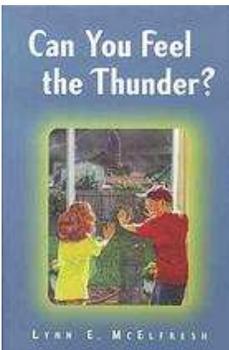
Temple Grandin, PhD is a gifted animal scientist who has designed ½ of all livestock-handling facilities in the US. Who would think this scientist would also have autism? She is a woman who thinks feels and experiences the world in ways that are incomprehensible to the rest of the world. This unprecedented biography delivers a report to the world from the country of autism. Writing from the dual perspectives of a scientist and a person with autism, she tells us how it feels to have autism and how she functions in both worlds. This captivating book gives a personal account of living with autism and tells how Temple Grandin’s extraordinary gift of animal empathy has transformed her world. This book was made into a HBO special in 2010 earning 37 Emmy nominations.

Blindness



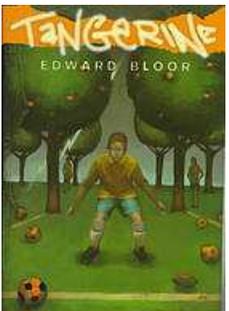
Cummings, Priscilla. Blindsided. New York: Dutton Children's Books, 2010. Grades 9-11.

Natalie is a 14 year old high school student who is slowly losing her eyesight due to a congenital disease and the prognosis indicates that she will eventually go blind. Her parents send her to a boarding school for the blind to help her prepare for her inevitable future. At her new school in Baltimore, Natalie is hostile, angry, uncooperative and lonely. Then one day she wakes up and she is unable to see! Her world is turned upside down. Natalie slowly comes to terms with her disability, learning to use her cane and learning Braille. Her mother, wonderful teachers and supportive friends help Natalie with her emotional and physical struggles. Natalie slowly realizes that blindness does not stop someone from living; it just forces them to develop different priorities and strengths.



McElfresh, Lynn. Can You Feel the Thunder?. New York: Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 1999. Grades 4-8.

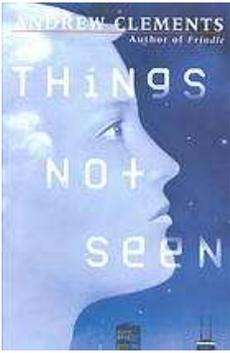
Mic Parson's lives a complicated life on Bixby Court which he assumes is the "weirdest" street in America. There is an old man with webbed fingers, a three legged golden retriever and a woman who thinks she saw Houdini's ghost when she was 11! Mic thinks the weirdest thing on Bixby Court is his sister, Stephanie who is deaf and blind and clomps around the house touching everyone and everything. To make matters worse, Vern Chortle, aka "Nerd Boy" moves to Bixby Court bringing his 382 pair sock collection, laminate maps and beeping watch. Then "Nerd Boy" decides that he wants to be Mic's best friend! Almost against his will, Mic finds he is spending more and more time at Vern's house and gradually begins to find that he likes Vern. As he admits to liking Vern, Mic gradually begins to realize that his sister Stephanie understands him more than anyone else especially when she teaches him fractions! This is a fun novel about a young boy who realizes that differences are normal.



Bloor, Edward. Tangerine. San Diego, C.A.: Harcourt Brace, 1997. Grades 7-10.

American Library Association Best Book for Young Adults

Paul Fischer is a young man who is legally blind and lives in the shadow of his high school football star brother, Erik. Paul might not have good vision, but Paul "sees" how his family dwells on the "Erik Fisher Football Dream" and ignores and forgets about Paul, the middle school second string soccer goalie. After a sink hole destroys part of his school, Paul transfers to a new school and learns valuable lessons about life while working at the tangerine groves. Ultimately, Erik's vicious and unscrupulous actions are discovered, triggering Paul's memory of how he became legally blind. This is a wonderful story of a boy in middle school who has the courage to stand up for the truth no matter how hard it is to do.



Clements, Andrew. Things Not Seen. New York: Philomel Books, 2002. Grades 8-12.

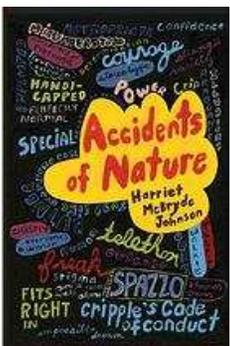
For fifteen year old Bobby Phillips, “being ignored” takes on a whole new meaning when he wakes up one morning and discovers he has become invisible. Not only is Bobby invisible, he is totally alone. Only his mother and father can know of his predicament and that means no school, no friends, and no one. Then he meets Alicia, a blind girl, and he cannot resist talking to her because she can’t tell that he is invisible! She is the only person he trusts because she understands what it feels like to be invisible, and being totally alone. Through Alicia, Bobby learns there is nothing worse than being invisible and they help each other work through their issues to find a friendship and strength that they did have before.



Clements, Andrew. Things That Are. New York: Philomel Books, 2008. Grades 8-12.

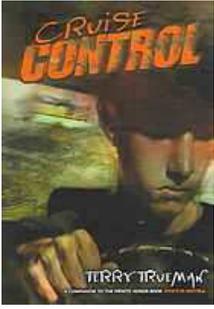
Alicia may be blind but that does not mean that she does not see what is going on around her. Her parents try to give her freedom but she feels them always watching her. Her friend Bobby, who is now called Robert, has just returned from New York City after auditioning for a music school. Amazingly, Robert encountered an invisible man in NYC who follows him back to Chicago. He wants Robert to make him visible again. Alicia and Robert wrestle with the invisibility issue as well as their personal relationship. This book is a sequel to *Things Not Seen* and it, too, is filled with adventure, romance and mystery. Robert and Alicia learn about trusting the things they know but cannot actually see.

Cerebral Palsy



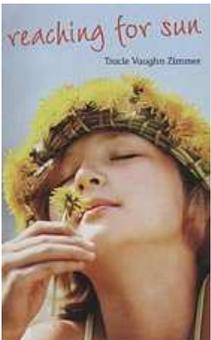
Johnson, Harriet McBryde. Accidents of Nature. New York: Holt, 2006. Grades 9-12.

Jean is a 17 year old senior in high school who has cerebral palsy and gets around by using a wheel chair. Her entire life she felt the same as anyone else. She has a supportive family and friends and is looking forward to college at UNC just like any other young girl. She feels she is a typical girl who goes to a typical school and has typical friends—until she attends Camp Courage. Here she meets Sara, a girl in a wheel chair who welcomes Jean to “Crip Camp”. Sara is intent on opening Jean’s eyes to the treatment of people with disabilities in the real world. Jean meets all kinds of kids at this camp with various disabilities and she joins a community unlike any she ever imagined. The book shows how the kids at the camp get through life, discussing bathroom rituals, sexual issues and professional dreams. It is an engaging, frank book and will change the reader’s view of the world.



Trueman, Terry. Cruise Control. New York: HarperTempest, 2004. Grades 9-12.

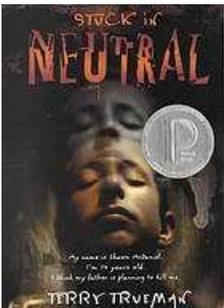
This is a story about a talented basketball player who struggles to deal with the helplessness and anger that come with having a brother with severe Cerebral Palsy and a father who deserted the family. Paul is a high school senior who “has it all”. He has good grades, good looks and is a terrific athlete but his home life is a mess. He lives with his mom and sister. His stay-at-home mother is dedicated toward caring for Paul’s brother who cannot care for himself, but does her best to care for her two other children as well. In this book, Paul comes to terms with the relationship with his father as well as his brother. It is a story of the “other” son, the one who does not have a disability. This book is a sequel to Cruise Control. Since it is told from the viewpoint of a 17 year old boy, it is filled with power, compassion and a lot of humor.



Zimmer, Tracie Vaughn. Reaching for Sun. New York: Bloomsbury Children’s Books Distributed to the trade by Holtzbrink Publishers, 2007. Grades 5-8.

2008 Schneider Award Winner

Josie was born with Cerebral Palsy and lives with her mother and grandmother, who love gardening. Behind Josie’s family farmhouse is a new housing development of mansions that continues to grow an amazing rate and overshadows their small home. When a lonely boy moves into the mansion development, he and Josie began to relate through their common interest in nature and gardening. He seems oblivious of Josie’s physical disability and Josie slowly comes to terms with the idea that perhaps she has finally made a true friend. This book is simply told in verse which makes it easy to read even for the most reluctant reader. Readers of all levels will enjoy spending time with Josie and may gain an increased awareness of a young girl with Cerebral Palsy.



Trueman, Terry. Stuck In Neutral. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2000. Grades 9-12.

Printz Honor Book

This is an amazing story told from the point of view of Shawn McDaniel, a 14 year old boy who has Cerebral Palsy. Shawn is an enigma – he has a developmental disability and is viewed as incapable of any cognition or feelings BUT in reality he thinks and feels like an ordinary teen age boy. The only problem is that those around Shawn do not know this. Shawn describes his life in this story. He tells of his relationship with his family especially with his dad who has left the home because he cannot cope with Shawn’s Cerebral Palsy. Those reading the book will experience a journey through the eyes of a young man who uses a wheel chair.

Deafness

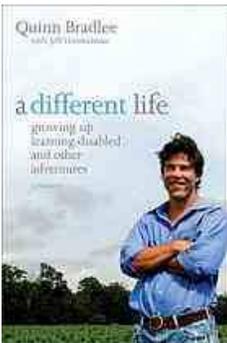


Rorby, Ginny. Hurt Go Happy. New York: Starscape, 2006. Grades 9-12.

2008 Schneider Award Winner

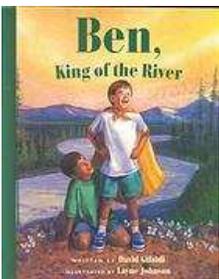
Thirteen year old Joey Willis is often left out of conversations and life because she is deaf. She was not always deaf; she lost her hearing at the age of 6. She knows what she is missing! Her mother overcompensates for her attractive daughter, not allowing her to sign so that she can be perceived by others as “normal”. Joey wants to learn to sign so she will not be left out of life. She wants to communicate with others. Joey’s life changes when she meets Dr. Charles Mansell and his baby chimpanzee Sukari. Sukari uses sign language to communicate and Joey secretly begins to practice signing despite her mom’s disapproval. Now Joey begins to understand conversations and begins to make friends in school. Things seem to be going so well for Joey until Dr. Mansell becomes ill and decisions about the care of Sukari change life forever for Joey.

Developmental Disabilities



Bradlee, Quinn. A Different Life: Growing Up Learning Disabled and Other Adventures. New York: PublicAffairs, 2009. Grades 9-12.

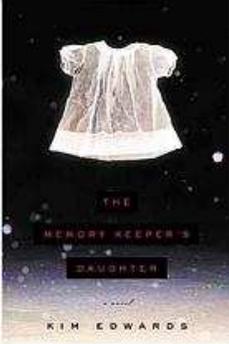
Quinn Bradley should have had a charmed life. His parents, Ben Bradley and Sally Quinn, were accomplished in the news business in Washington DC. But Bradley was born with Velo-Cardio-Facial Syndrome which is expressed through a range of physical problems and learning disabilities. With the help of his parents, Bradley is diagnosed by a doctor in Syracuse who encourages Bradley to live his life and he does! This honest, funny tough book is his saga of his life. He loves surfing and snowboarding because he can excel at these individual sports. He searches for his identity by attending a variety of schools trying to find the right fit. At film school, he decides to make a documentary about his life so that others can learn from his experiences. He does not sugarcoat how difficult difference can be but there is no pity or complaint in this book. He just tells it like it is when a young person has developmental and learning disabilities but still has a full life. This book is a great read for all in grades 9-12.



Gifaldi, David. Ben, King of the River. Morton Grove, IL: Albert Whitman & Company, 2001. Grades 4-6.

Chad is really looking forward to his family’s first camping trip but he is very worried that his five year old brother, Ben, will ruin the trip. Ben is different and does not fit in right according to Chad. Ben has a developmental disability and follows an exact routine and especially enjoys watching his videos. When Ben’s routine is disrupted, Ben sometimes “freaks out” and this embarrasses Chad. Ben loves to swim but really dislikes bugs which cause problems on the camping trip especially when other boys are around. Chad realizes that it is his job to keep an eye out for his brother, caring for him, but sometimes he resents this role. The author of this book was assisted by his young nephew, Josh, who has a brother who a developmental disability. At the back of the book are some tips for other children who have siblings like Chad.

Down syndrome

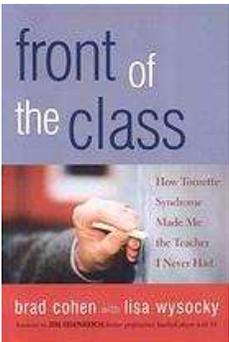


Edwards, Kim. The Memory Keeper's Daughter. New York: Viking, 2005. Grades 10-12.

When Dr. David Henry delivers his own twin children during a terrible blizzard in 1964, he immediately recognizes that his newborn daughter has Down syndrome. In order to protect his wife from this news, he hands this child to his nurse asking her to take the child to an institution and never bring this up to anyone. Caroline, the nurse, cannot leave the child, Phoebe, at the institution, so she and the child relocate to a large city to begin their life together. Caroline teaches Phoebe life skills to survive and develop independence.

After the loss of their daughter, the relationship between Dr. Henry and his wife deteriorates. Dr. Henry's fateful decision impacts many lives in many ways. In 2008, this book was made into a movie by *Lifetime Television*.

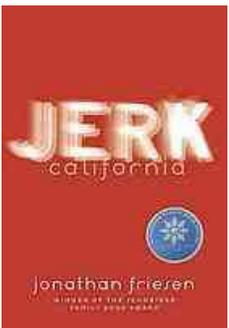
Tourette syndrome



Cohen, Brad. Front of the Class: How Tourette Syndrome Made Me the Teacher I Never Had. Action, Mass.: Vanderwyk & Burnham, 2005. Grades 9-12.

Brad Cohen was born with Tourette syndrome. As a child he was ridiculed, beaten, mocked and shunned by others. Teachers thought he was a behavior problem. Tourette syndrome is a misunderstood syndrome filled with innuendos and misunderstandings even by many educators. Many teachers and students thought Brad was just trying to get attention—the wrong way! School was a disaster for him until a knowledgeable principal took up his cause and asked Brad to help conduct a “teachable moment”.

He got up in front of the entire school taught the students all about Tourette syndrome showing that Brad did not have control over his tics and noises. This is an inspirational story whether you have a disability or not. This is a story of how determination can make impossible dreams come true. Today Brad is a teacher and he received Georgia's First Class Teacher of the Year Award after completing his first year teaching. He is an inspiration for students and teachers alike. This book was made into a movie *Front of the Class*, in 2008.

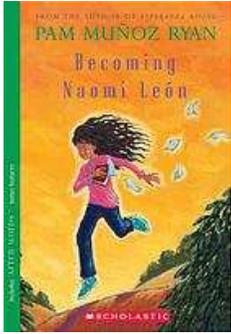


Friesen, Jonathan. Jerk California. New York, NY: Speak, 2008. Grades 9-12.

2009 Schneider Award Winner for Teens

Sam is a high school senior who has Tourette syndrome and other issues. He blames all of his problems like his abusive stepfather, the loss of his own dad, his lack of friends and lack of love live, on Tourette. Most of the time, he is not wrong. His stepfather hates him because of his disability. As a result, our main character, Sam, is bitter, angry and very antisocial. Things change when Sam graduates from high school and goes to work for the “odd” man in town named George. George has some secrets – the most important is that he knew Sam's real dad. When George suddenly dies, he leaves instructions for Sam to go on a road trip to Jerk, California. This trip becomes a learning experience for Sam when he learns his roots and how to deal with Tourette syndrome and find his true identity.

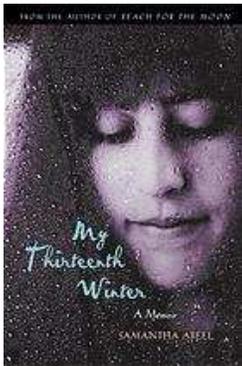
Misc.



Ryan, Pam Munoz. Becoming Naomi León. New York: Scholastic Press, 2004. Grades 4-8.

2005 Schneider Award

For seven years Naomi and her brother Owen lived happily with Gram in her trailer. Their mother had deserted her children seven years before due to her alcoholism and erratic behavior. Naomi used selective mutism to deal with her abandonment and is often viewed by school mates as an outcast. Naomi's younger brother Owen needed a lot of medical attention to deal with his physical disabilities. It was Gram's new job to arrange for Owen's doctors appointments and surgeries. Gram also helped Naomi begin to speak again. Suddenly their mother reappears, trying miserably to reconnect with her children. Gram takes the children on a long trip to Mexico to find their father and their heritage. Their dad is thrilled to see them and Naomi finally becomes "who I was meant to be."



Abeel, Samantha. My Thirteenth Winter: A Memoir. New York: Orchard Books, 2003. Grades 9-12.

2005 Schneider Award Winner

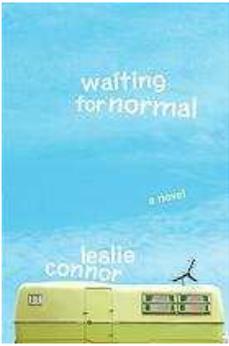
This book captures Samantha Abeel's life with a learning disability. Samantha has dyscalculia, which prevents her from telling time, counting change accurately and performing simple math – functions that most people take for granted. In her memoir, she describes in painstaking detail how her life was affected by her learning disability before and after she was diagnosed. Samantha was a bright, artistic and talented student and no one could understand why she had so much difficulty with math. Samantha describes how she developed coping mechanisms so she could get through classes without understanding the material. Then she reached high school Algebra and Samantha could not hide any more. She develops severe anxiety and panic attacks which affected her home life as well as her social life. Finally through her writing Samantha is able to gain some kind of balance in her life by sharing her experiences in this memoir.



Fusco, Kimberly Newton. Tending to Grace. New York: Knopf: Distributed by Random House, 2004. Grades 6-8.

2006 Schneider Award Winner

Cornelia is a 13 year old girl who will not talk to anyone because she stutters and is very self-conscious of her speech. Her silence relegates her to the remedial classes. Even though she has read more books than anyone else in her grade, she is stuck in the easiest English class reading the watered down classics. When Cornelia's mother runs off to Las Vegas with her boyfriend leaving Corny with an eccentric aunt, Agatha, Cornelia realizes that Agatha needs her as much as Cornelia needs Agatha. Cornelia finally faces her fear of talking aloud and realizes that she can be successful in school as well as life. The book is told in the first person and the depth of her anger, fear and isolation is poignant.



Connor, Leslie. Waiting for Normal. New York: Katherine Tegen Books, 2008. Grades 6-8.

2009 Schneider Award Winner

Addison “Addie” Schmeeter is waiting for her life to be normal because her life is anything but normal. Her dad died when she was three years old leaving Addie in the care of her mother, “Mommers” who is unstable and has bipolar disorder. Mommers marries Dwight and has two other children but decides to divorce Dwight who takes his two children with him. Again, Addie is left alone with Mommers whose behaviors become more erratic and get them into constant trouble. Mommers throws away the mortgage money, they lose their home and move into a small trailer on a busy city street corner. Mommers often leaves 12 year old Addie alone to fend for herself for many days at a time. In spite of all her troubles, Addie remains optimistic hoping that someday she will find normal.