

Booklist for Include!



All the Way Home

by Patricia Reilly Giff
Yearling, 2003

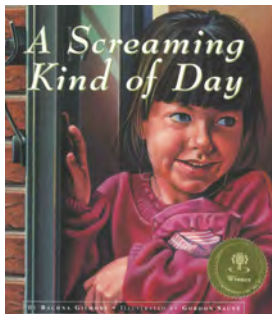
Growing up in Brooklyn at the end of the Depression, Mariel survived the polio epidemic but was left with awkward legs and painful memories. One day she meets Brick, a boy sent to the city when the family farm fails. In the sweltering days of late summer in Brooklyn, New York, Mariel decides to help Brick find his way back home while she looks for the mother she lost years ago.



The Art of Miss Chew and Thank You, Mr. Falker

by Patricia Polacco
Putnam Books, 2012

These are two picture books based on the author/illustrator's own experiences as a child with significant and initially undiagnosed learning disabilities and artistic gifts. These books help readers see and feel what it is like to live with learning disabilities and learn how supportive teachers and unrecognized strengths can help students find their own success in school.



A Screaming Kind of Day

**by Rachna Gilmore with illustrations by Gordon Sauve
Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 2001**

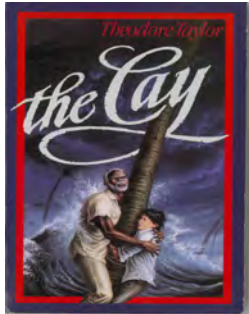
Scully wakes up knowing it is going to be a bad day, so bad that at first she doesn't put on her hearing aids. Teased by her brother for not being able to hear, then grounded for yelling, Scully decides to take matters into her own hands and heads out to experience the rain.



Algunos Niños Son Sordos: Some Kids Are Deaf

**by Lola M Schaefer
Capstone Press, 2010**

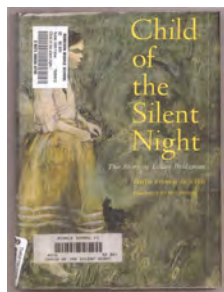
This book for elementary grades (and younger) uses simple words and bright color photographs to explain Deafness to young children. Deaf and hard of hearing children are shown using hearing aids, closed captioning, text messaging equipment, visual alarms and other equipment and communicating through sign language and lip reading. This small book is a comfortable size for small hands and is written in both Spanish and English.



The Cay

**by Theodore Taylor
Random House, 2005**

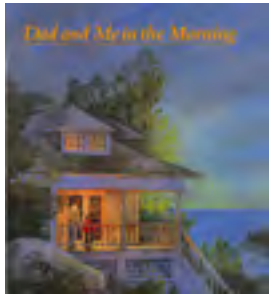
This book tells the story of an unexpected friendship between a white boy and a black man that develops when they help each other survive after the ship they are on is torpedoed during World War II. The boy loses his sight as a result of the explosion and the older man helps him learn survival skills and cope with blindness while they wait for rescue. The book addresses both racism and disability and is also a great resource for exploring World War II history and natural science. This book is often read in middle-school classrooms but will also interest some older students and adults. It is also available as an audiobook.



Child of the Silent Night, The Story of Laura Bridgman

**by Edith Fisher Hunter with illustrations by Bea Homes
Houghton Mifflin, 1963**

This is an old book but one that still holds the interest of readers. Laura Bridgman's experiences growing up in New Hampshire and going to Perkins School for the Blind led to Annie Sullivan's later work with Helen Keller. The book tells of her first mentor, a shy older man who loved the woods and helped Laura "see" them through her hands, and follows her to Perkins Institute for the Blind and a life educating others.



Dad and Me in the Morning

**by Patricia Lakin with illustrations by Robert G. Steele
Albert Whitman & Co., 1994**

A young Deaf boy and his father get up early to see the sun rise. Steele's illustrations include the boy's flashing alarm clock and hearing aids and the author weaves the use of sign language and lip reading into a quiet and beautifully illustrated story of a boy and his father sharing an early morning adventure.



Dad, Jackie, and Me

**by Myron Uhlberg with illustrations by Colin Bootman
Peachtree, 2005**

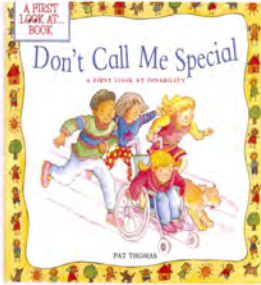
In this picture book a boy and his father who is Deaf share a love of baseball and Jackie Robinson. A postscript by the author explains why Robinson, the first black player in Major League Baseball, meant so much to his own father who experienced discrimination because he was Deaf. Though this is a picture book, it will engage older elementary, middle and high school readers who are interested in baseball, civil rights and Deaf history.



The Disabilities and Differences series (We All Communicate, We All Learn, We All Move, We All Play, We All Read and We are All Different)

Heinemann Library, 2009

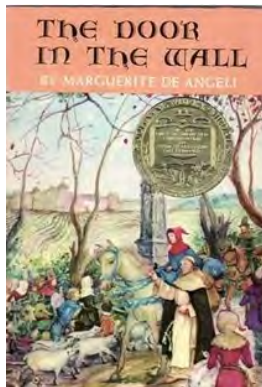
This series uses simple text and wonderful multicultural photographs to show children and adults with disabilities living, working, playing and learning with other children. The images show the technologies and accommodations that help all children participate and belong while showing us that differences are something to recognize and celebrate as part of shared human activities. Though the reading level is designed for kindergarten and elementary school students, the interest level goes beyond that, due to the vibrant and detailed photographs of diverse people and places.



Don't Call Me Special: A First Look at Disability

**by Pat Thomas with illustrations by Lesley Harker
Barron's Educational Services, 2002**

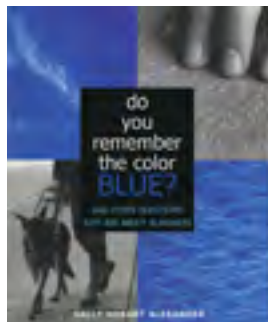
This is a good book to read and talk about with children who are 4 to 7 years old. A young child with a disability asks readers not to call her special but to get to know her as a person. This book is a good way to introduce the importance of getting to know a person with a disability as a person and not by their disability.



The Door in the Wall

**by Marguerite de Angeli
Bantam, 1949**

Set in England during the Middle Ages, this book tells the story of Robin, the son of a nobleman who finds his courage as he comes to terms with a physical disability after illness leaves him with no use of his legs.



Do You Remember the Color Blue?

**by Sally Hobart Alexander
The Penguin Group, 2000**

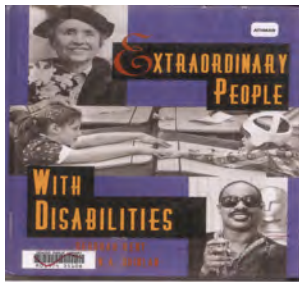
This book is for children 9 and older. The author, who lost her sight when she was 26, shares some of the questions that children ask her most often: Was it scary at first? What does a guide dog do? Do people treat you differently? Is it hard being a parent when you can't see? Why do so many people who are blind wear sunglasses? These are just a few of the questions Sally Hobart Alexander addresses in this book.



Enrique Speaks with his Hands

**by Benjamin Fudge with illustrations by Tim Edmonson
Hilton Publishing Co., 2008**

The words and illustrations in this picture book show a family living in a village in Honduras. When the new baby, Enrique, does not respond to thunder, his mother realizes that Enrique cannot hear. His mother and sisters love Enrique but don't know how to talk with him, and he does not know how to share feelings and ideas with them. The children in the village make fun of him. Then one day Enrique goes to a school where he sees other children speaking in sign. As Enrique learns signs, his mother learns too and a world opens up for both of them. This is a story based on real life: The author met Enrique and the teacher who introduced him to sign language when he visited Honduras in 2003.



Extraordinary People with Disabilities

**by Deborah Kent and Kathryn A. Quinian
Children's Press/Grolier, 1996**

This book tells the stories of famous people with disabilities and includes advocates who have been active in disability work and human rights. Scientists, artists, musicians, activists, athletes, politicians and actors can all be found here. This is a good book to inspire further reading and research.



Hi, I'm Ben! ... And I've got a secret!

**by Julie A. Bouwkamp with illustrations by David Tesnar
Band of Angels, 1995**

In this engaging picture book for kindergarten and early elementary school children, Ben tells the reader all the things he does with his parents and his family. He also tells the reader/audience that he has a secret to share. Readers (or listening children) will turn the page to get closer to the secret. Eventually Ben shares that he has Down syndrome and what that means. Before he gets there, the story and pictures will help readers or children in the audience see how much they have in common with Ben.



How to Talk to an Autistic Kid

**by Daniel Stefanski
Free Spirit Publishing, 2011**

Daniel is 14 and wrote this book to help people understand how people with autism experience the world. His clear answers to commonly asked questions should help children and adults know how to communicate with and include children with autism. The strong artwork also helps!



I Am Utterly Unique

**by Elaine Marie Larson with illustrations by Vivian Strand
Autism Asperger Publishing Company, 2006**

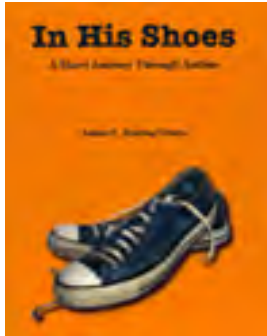
This alphabet book for early elementary grades (and even earlier) goes from A to Z describing the interests, strengths and skills of children with high functioning autism and Asperger syndrome. Bright big pictures accompany each page. The gifts of many children with these conditions are found in every letter of the alphabet, from animal lover, busy brain, and colossal collector to having an eXtra large memory and loving puZZles and piZZa.



Ian's Walk: A Story about Autism

**by Laurie Lears with illustrations by Karen Ritz
Albert Whitman and Company, 1998**

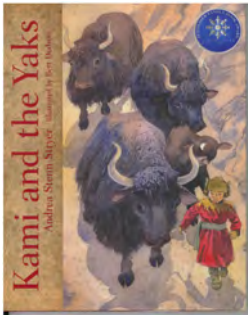
Julie wants to go to the park with her big sister, Tara; but their mother says that their brother Ian has to go too. Julie is angry about having to spend time with Ian who does things so differently all the way to the park. When Ian is lost and then found doing something he loves, Julie walks home with Ian and tries seeing and hearing and touching the world the way he does. This elementary school book has wonderful illustrations.



In His Shoes: A Short Journey Through Autism

by Joanna L. Keating-Velasco
Autism Asperger Publishing Company, 2008

This book for middle-school students shares stories of days in the life of Nick, a boy who has autism. As we read about Nick doing all the things kids do on their own, in school, with friends and with family, we learn how Nick experiences the world. Each episode in Nick's life is followed by points to ponder and the book also ends with a glossary. Both children and adult readers learn a lot about what it is like to "walk in the shoes" of someone with autism.



Kami and the Yaks

by Andrea Stenn Stryer with illustrations by Bert Dodson
Bay Otter Press, 2006

Kami is a young Deaf boy whose family livelihood depends on their herd of yaks to carry supplies when the family guides the visitors who come to climb the high mountains of Nepal. When the yaks go missing before a trek, Kami goes to the high mountains to look for them despite a fierce mountain storm. A boy the author met while trekking near Mount Everest inspired this story.



Looking Out for Sarah

Written and illustrated by Glenna Lang
Charlesbridge, 2003

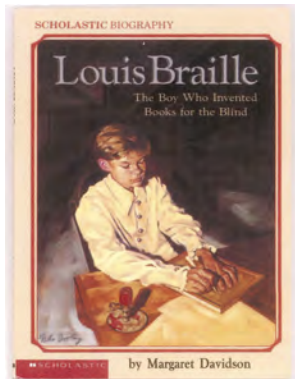
This is one of several picture books presenting the real-life relationship between individuals who are blind and the guide dogs that share their lives. This story follows Sarah, who lives and works as a musician in Boston, and her guide dog, Perry, from when they start their day in the morning through their walks, train rides and various stops during a working day. It also includes descriptions of the time Sarah and Perry walked 300 miles. The words and illustrations in this book do a good job showing and telling us about their close working relationship. The text and images work well together but are also complete on their own so that listeners without sight can get as much from the story as people with sight do.



Louis Braille: A Touch of Genius

**by C. Michael Mellor
National Braille Press, 2006**

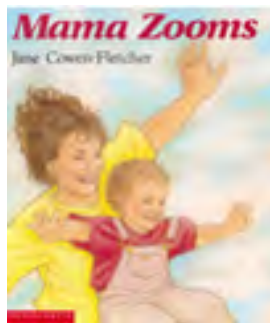
This book is for older readers but includes many fascinating historical photographs and images. See the next entry and the later listing of “Out of Darkness” by Russell Freedman.



Louis Braille: The Boy Who Invented Books for the Blind

**by Margaret Davidson with illustrations by Janet Compere
Scholastic, 1991**

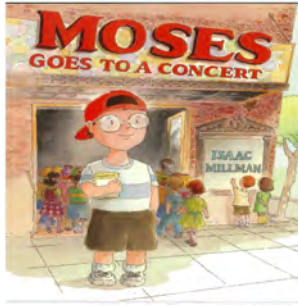
Margaret Davidson introduces readers to the French boy who created the Braille system still in use around the world today. Wanting a better life for him, Louis Braille’s parents sent him away from their small village to a school for the blind. At that time, books for the blind were so big that they were hard to use and too expensive to duplicate. When he was 12 Louis began trying to develop a simpler system. His Braille symbols were so popular with his fellow students that they kept the language going even when the headmaster banned their use. Davidson’s book is written for second- through fifth-graders.



Mama Zooms

**Written and illustrated by Jane Cowen-Fletcher
Scholastic Inc., 1993**

A small child shares the fun he has riding with his mom on her “zoom machine”— a wheelchair. Their travels take him on the sidewalk, down a ramp and on imaginary journeys. A lovely read-aloud book or early reader that can be used to stimulate conversations in many kindergarten and elementary school classes.



Moses Goes to a Concert

**by Isaac Millman
Macmillan, 1998**

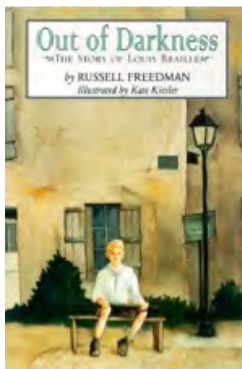
The author takes readers and listeners on a journey with a class of children who are Deaf. Why would Deaf and hard of hearing children want to go to a concert? Why doesn't the percussionist wear shoes? What are some of the signs Deaf children and adults use when they speak to each other? Learn all this and more when you join Moses and his class as they go to a concert.



Never Sell Yourself Short

**by Stephanie Riggs with photographs by Bill Youmans
Albert Whitman and Co., 2001**

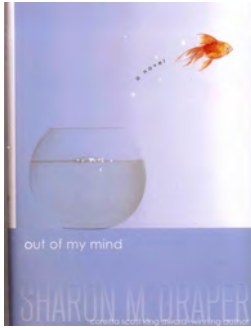
Television journalist Stephanie Riggs interviewed Josh Maudlin when he was in junior high. She worked with Josh and with photographer Bill Youmans to create this book about his daily life. Josh talks about his friends and interests (learning to drive) and goals (being a pilot). His words and Youmans' pictures show Josh doing all the things most kids do; but also show what it is like to live in a world designed for taller people. This book will interest elementary and junior high school students. It could also be used to stimulate a writing and photography project where students write about and photograph their lives.



Out of Darkness: The Story of Louis Braille

**by Russell Freedman with illustrations by Kate Kiesler
Clarion Books, 1997**

The story of Braille and the boy who created it is an important and often overlooked part of disability history. This book is for more advanced readers than "The Boy Who Invented Books for the Blind" but easier reading than "Louis Braille: A Touch of Genius" (both listed above).



Out of My Mind

**by Sharon Draper.
Atheneum Books, 2010**

Melody, a girl with cerebral palsy, has thousands of words in her head but no way to share them. She is unable to talk and uses a wheelchair. No one knows that Melody loves words until she finally gets a speech device that lets her share her thoughts. Will anyone listen?



Piano Starts Here, The Young Art Tatum

**by Robert Andrew Parker
Random House, 2008**

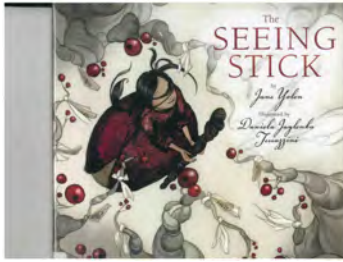
This book uses vivid paintings and simple text to tell the story of Tatum's life, from his childhood as a young blind boy in a black neighborhood in Toledo, Ohio. Through his travels and growing fame as a jazz and blues pianist, the story gives readers a sense of the childhood and adult life of the boy who became a musician and who inspired musicians and listeners as he transformed jazz.



Sarah's Sleepover

**by Bobbie Rodriguez with illustrations by Mark Graham
Viking, 2000**

Sarah, who has been blind since birth, gets permission to have her friends over for a sleepover. A power outage makes it dark and scary until Sarah makes it fun again. Brilliant images of nighttime play make for good reading, viewing and listening in the classroom or before bed.



The Seeing Stick

by Jane Yolen

with illustrations by Daniela Jaglenka Terrazzini
Running Press Kids, 2009

This wonderful picture book tells the story of a Japanese emperor whose daughter is born blind. The emperor offers a prize to anyone who can cure his daughter. The story shows that there is more than one way to see the world.

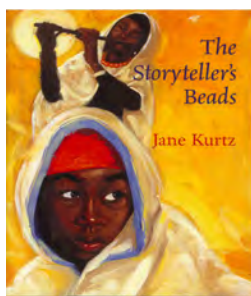


Sees Behind Trees

by Michael Dorris

Hyperion Paperbacks for Children, 1999

Tells the story of an American Indian boy with limited sight. Walnut has to show that he can earn his adult name despite his poor sight.

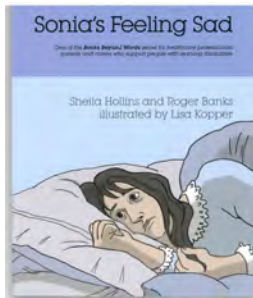


The Storyteller's Beads

by Jane Kurtz

Gulliver Books, Harcourt, 1998

Rahel (who is blind) and her brother are sent away from their families to escape the Ethiopian drought. On their journey they meet others traveling to escape the drought. Rahel and her new friend Sahay have to overcome their own fears as well as cultural prejudices as they travel toward safety together.



Sonia's Feeling Sad

**by Sheila Hollins and Roger Banks
with illustrations by Lisa Kopper
A book in the Books Beyond Words series, 2013**

This series tells stories through images in order to share information and facilitate dialogue about sensitive issues without someone having to read or understand text. In this book Sonia is dealing with depression and the story follows her as she tries to deal with it alone and then decides to get help.



Sosu's Call

**by Meshack Asare-Sosa
Kane/Miller, 2002**

Sosu wants to be a part of the life of his small village near the sea. Instead his father is told that a boy who cannot walk should be kept apart because he might bring bad luck. So Sosu never leaves home and envies his dog running after his sisters and brothers as they head off to school. One day a storm comes up suddenly while everyone is away except the very old and the very young and Sosu. What can he do? Read this story and find out. This lovely picture book won the UNESCO Children and Youth's Literature in the Service of Tolerance Award in 1999.



Through Grandpa's Eyes

**by Patricia MacLachlan with illustrations by Deborah Kogan Ray
Harper Collins Publishers, 1980**

As John does things with the grandfather he loves, he learns how his grandfather sees the world through hearing, touch, and smell. This picture book is for children ages 5–8.



To Kill a Mockingbird

by Harper Lee

Grand Central Publishing, 1988 & Harper Audio, 2008

This tells the story of one community and attitudes about race, disability and honor as told by Scout, the 10-year-old daughter of a lawyer who chooses to represent a black man falsely accused of raping a white woman. Famous for its compelling portrayal of racism in a small southern town in the 1930s, the story also reveals how the community deals with disability and other differences. A wonderful read for older students and a great book for discussions on issues of both race and disability.

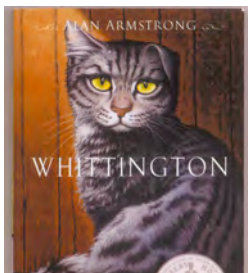


Warrior Scarlet

by Rosemary Sutcliff

RR Donnelly and Sons, 2009

A young boy growing up in Bronze Age Britain must prove his worth to his tribe despite his withered arm that cannot lift a spear.



Whittington

by Alan Armstrong

Yearling/Random House, 2005

This recent Newberry Award winner tells what happens when a boy and his sister get to know the unusual animals that live at their grandfather's farm. Bernie's grandson Ben has learning disabilities and is afraid of being held back in school. When the descendent of Dick Whittington's cat tells the story of his famous ancestor, remarkable things start happening in the barn. Armstrong's wonderful writing and a quiet humor is reminiscent of E.B. White's "Charlotte's Web," but the author brings his own unique and wonderful perspective to this tale about how storytelling can change lives. For ages 9–12.



Wonder

by RJ Palacio
Random House, 2012

August Pullman has never gone to public school and he is not sure he wants to. Born with a facial deformity and related health conditions, surgeries had kept him home, away from stares, averted gazes and being treated like a freak. Coming to school as a fifth-grader is not the easiest way to begin. August knows that he is just an ordinary kid, but will anyone else ever see him this way?



Wonderstruck

by Brian Selznick
Scholastic Press, 2011

This novel presents a family mystery and tells what it's like to live without hearing at different times in 20th-century America. In 1927 Rose lives a lonely life at home with a tutor. Silent films are her one escape. One day she decides to find famous silent film actress Lillian Mayhew. Decades later we meet Ben who is mourning the death of his mother and the father he never met. A bookmark in his mother's book leads Ben to his family history, adventures in the American Museum of Natural History and to Rose. The author was inspired to write this story after seeing the public television series and book about Deaf history, "Through Deaf Eyes." The book is probably best for middle school but remarkable use of pictures with engaging text makes the story accessible to readers and listeners of all ages.
