

ADHD

Cory Stories-A Kids Guide to Living With ADHD by Jeanne Kraus

In short statements and vignettes, Cory describes what it's like to have ADHD: how it affects his relationships with friends and family, his school performance and his overall functioning.

Shelly, The Hyperactive Turtle by Deborah Moss

After getting into trouble by not paying attention, Shelley the turtle is diagnosed with ADHD and his behavior improves. (20pgs 4 up 20 pages)

Walk In the Rain with a Brain by Edward Hallowell, M.D.

Each brain finds its own special way -- that's the message in this delightful, colorful story by America's foremost expert on learning and childhood development. (ages 4-8, 32 pages)

Eddie Enough by Debbie Zimmet

For anyone who is the parent, friend, or teacher of a child with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD), Eddie Enough rings true. Share this wonderful book and its happy ending with grade school children with AD/HD, their siblings, and playmates. (ages 4 and up, 40pgs)

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key by Jack Gantos

In this antic yet poignant new novel, Jack Gantos has perfect pitch in capturing the humor, the off-the-wall intensity, and the serious challenges that life presents to a kid dealing with hyper-activity and related disorders. *Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key* is a 1998 National Book Award Finalist for Young People's Literature. (ages 10-13, 172pgs)

Survival Guide for Kids with add or ADHD by John F. Taylor

In kid-friendly language and a format that welcomes reluctant and easily distracted readers, *The Survival Guide for Kids with ADD or ADHD* helps kids know they're not alone and offers practical strategies for taking care of oneself, modifying behavior, enjoying school, having fun, and dealing (when needed) with doctors, counselors, and medication. Includes real-life scenarios, quizzes, and a special message for parents. (all ages 184 pgs)

Understanding Girls With ADHD by Kathleen Nadeau, Ellen Littman and Patricia Quinn (Guide for parents)

A ground-breaking book on the needs and issues of girls with attentional problems: why they are often undiagnosed, how they are different from boys, and what their special needs are in school, in their social world and at home. Age-related checklists from pre-school to high school help parents and professionals better identify and help girls with AD/HD.

Attention, Girs!: A Guide to Learn All about Your ADHD by Patricia O. Quinn

This is the first book written for 'tween' girls (ages 7-11) who have ADD/ADHD. It offers girls, their parents, and professionals practical tips and techniques for managing attention disorders and the many aspects of life that these disorders can affect. It was written in an engaging style that doesn't 'talk down' to girls. It is packed with useful and empowering lessons that are simple to apply. It was written by a developmental pediatrician who is a well-known author. (Ages 9 and up, 119pgs)

The Girls Guide to ADHD by Beth Walker

Attention, girls with AD/HD! Finally there is a book written especially for you—a for-your-eyes-only look at what it is like to have AD/HD, and great advice on how to cope with it. *THE GIRLS' GUIDE TO AD/HD* explores the good stuff, not-so-good stuff, normal stuff, brain stuff, and truthfully, the stuff that isn't in any other book out there on AD/HD. Really! So what makes this book different? It is funny, honest, and written especially for girls, not for their parents. It presents all the must-know information about AD/HD in a style that girls in junior, middle, or high school will understand and want to read. (ages 12 and up, 174pgs)

How to do Homework Without Throwing Up by Trevor Romain

"Everybody who goes to school does homework. You are not alone. And they feel just as sick as you do when they have to do it."

Trevor Romain knows how horrible homework can be, and kids will see this right away as they page through this book, grin at the cartoons, and smile at Trevor's funny insights.

Meanwhile, they'll discover valuable truths and pointers about homework: "People who say homework is a waste of time don't know what they are talking about." "The best way to get your homework done without feeling sick every time you see it is to just do it."

Kids will also learn how to make a homework schedule, when to do the hardest homework (first!), the benefits of doing homework, and more—serious suggestions delivered with wit and humor because laughter makes learning fun. (ages 8-13)

Jumpin' Johnny Get Back to Work!: A Child's Guide to ADHD/Hyperactivity by Michael Gordon Ph.D. (24pgs, young child picture book)

Taking ADD to School: A School Story About Attention Deficit Disorder by Kim Gosselin
Ben is having trouble in school. It's hard to concentrate and his teachers always tell him to pay attention. A trip to the doctor reveals that Ben has Attention Deficit Disorder. Written for children from Ben's perspective, this book is well suited for reading aloud in the classroom. Will help kids understand A.D.D. and A.D.H.D. as well as educate parents, teachers, caregivers, etc. A quiz for kids and Ten Tips for Teachers included. Wonderfully illustrated!

Putting on the Brakes by Patricia Quinn

All you need to know about attention deficit disorder is included in this updated edition of the bestselling classic, *Putting on the Brakes*. This resource for young people, their parents, and professionals is now revised and expanded, covering the newest techniques in diagnosing and treating ADHD. (ages 9-12, 80pgs)

Lucky Horseshoes: A tale from the Iris the Dragon Series by Gayle Crass

The book illustrates through its images and words the feelings and thoughts of an ADHD child. (46 pgs young children)

My Brain Needs Glasses: Living With Hyperactivity / Vincent, Annick.

The imaginary journal of Tom will help young people, parents, and education and psychology professionals better understand the reality of living with ADHD. (43 pgs)

Ethan has too much energy: an emotional literacy book by Shapiro, Lawrence E.

Tells the story of an active impulsive boy, who with the help of a counselor, learns to calm himself down, focus on one task at a time, and organize his work.

The Other Me: Poetic Thoughts on ADD for Adults, Kids, and Parents by Wilma R. Fellman

In this book of poetry, the author captures the challenges, the sensitive, and the lighter side of ADD. The poems are grouped in categories -- adults and kids, and parents. The poems look at the feelings, frustrations, and accomplishments of people with ADD.

Novels

Anything But Typical by Nora Raleigh Baskin

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 Phoenix Bird-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. By acclaimed writer Nora Raleigh Baskin, this is the breathtaking depiction of an autistic boy's struggles-and a story for anyone who has ever worried about fitting in. (ages 10-14, 212pgs)

Out Of My Mind by Sharon Draper grades 4-6 320pgs

Eleven-year-old Melody has a photographic memory. Her head is like a video camera that is always recording. Always. And there's no delete button. She's the smartest kid in her whole school—but no one knows it. Most people—her teachers and doctors included—don't think she's capable of learning, and up until recently her school days consisted of listening to the same preschool-level alphabet lessons again and again and again. If only she could speak up, if only she could tell people what she thinks and knows . . . but she can't, because Melody can't talk. She can't walk. She can't write. Being stuck inside her head is making Melody go out of her mind—that is, until she discovers something that will allow her to speak for the first time ever. At last Melody has a voice . . . but not everyone around her is ready to hear it. From multiple Coretta Scott King Award winner Sharon M. Draper comes a story full of heartache and hope. Get ready to meet a girl whose voice you'll never, ever forget. (grades 4-6, 308pgs)

Autism and Aspergers

A is for Autism, F is for Friend: A Kid's Book for Making Friends with a Child Who Has Autism

by Joanna L. Keating-Velasco

Get an inside look at the life of Chelsea, a young girl who has severe autism. In this book, Chelsea walks us through her day, including trips to the playground and park, and explains that although she sees other kids playing and wants to join them, social interaction can be tricky for her. In sharing some of her other behaviors and challenges, Chelsea compares them with issues that all kids face such as playing at recess. By demystifying her autism, she underscores the many things she and her schoolmates have in common, thus prompting a typical child to think, Hey, I experience that, too! A Is for Autism, F Is for Friend provides an enjoyable, discussion-oriented format for teaching youth about autism. (54pgs)

***Different Like Me: My Book of Autism Heroes* by Jennifer Elder**

Different Like Me introduces children aged 8 to 12 years to famous, inspirational figures from the world of science, art, math, literature, philosophy and comedy. Eight-year-old Quinn, a young boy with Asperger's Syndrome, tells young readers about the achievements and characteristics of his autism heroes, from Albert Einstein, Dian Fossey and Wassily Kandinsky to Lewis Carroll, Benjamin Banneker and Julia Bowman Robinson, among others. All excel in different fields, but are united by the fact that they often found it difficult to fit in-just like Quinn. Fully illustrated in color and written in child-friendly language, this book will be a wonderful resource for children, particularly children with autism, their parents, teachers, carers and siblings. Hi My Name is Matt-I have Aspergers Syndrome by Vera Joffe, PhD (ages 8-12, 48pgs)

***Mockingbird* by Katheryn Erskine**

Caitlin has Asperger's. The world according to her is black and white; anything in between is confusing. Before, when things got confusing, Caitlin went to her older brother, Devon, for help. But Devon has died, and Caitlin's dad is so distraught that he is just not helpful. Caitlin wants everything to go back to the way things were, but she doesn't know how to do that. Then she comes across the word closure- and she realizes this is what she needs. And in her search for it, Caitlin discovers that the world may not be black and white after all. (ages 10 and up, 239 pgs)

***Rules* by Cynthia Lord**

This 2007 Newbery Honor Book is a humorous and heartwarming debut about feeling different and finding acceptance. Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public"---in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors. But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal? (grades 4-7 224 pgs)

***Blue Bottle Mystery: An Aspergers Adventure* by Kathy Hoop**

Review from School Library Journal: Nothing seems to be going right for Ben. Sometimes he has trouble understanding what his teachers are saying, and they get frustrated and yell at him. And because he sometimes acts strangely, he only has one friend, Andy. The boys are in a miserable mood, digging in the dirt in the schoolyard, when they unearth a mysterious blue bottle. Imagining that it belongs to a genie, they leap into a barrage of wishes and, gradually, their wishes begin to come true. Ben and his father win the lottery, while Andy begins a furious growth spurt that enables him to join the basketball team. Even Ben's behavior problems are eased when he is diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome, a kind of autism, and he and his family learn how to deal with his condition. Only the mystery of Ben and Andy's forgotten third wish remains, and that resolves itself in a most gratifying way. Blue Bottle Mystery is a simple and straightforward story with appealing characters. It's a gentle introduction to the challenges and unique qualities of people living with Asperger's and a welcome read for families who have experienced it and similar conditions. Heather Dieffenbach, Lexington Public Library, KY Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. (grades 3-5, 98pgs)

Differences You Can See

***I Funny: A Middle School Story* by James Patterson**

Jamie Grimm is a middle schooler on a mission: he wants to become the world's greatest standup comedian--even if he doesn't have a lot to laugh about these days. He's new in town and stuck living with his aunt, uncle, and their evil son Stevie, a bully who doesn't let Jamie's wheelchair stop him from messing with Jamie as much as possible. But Jamie doesn't let his situation get him down. When his Uncle Frankie mentions a contest called The Planet's Funniest Kid Comic, Jamie knows he has to enter. But are the judges only rewarding him out of pity because of his wheelchair, like Stevie suggests? Will Jamie ever share the secret of his troubled past instead of hiding behind his comedy act? (grades 4-7, 302pgs)

***Wonder* by RJ Palacio**

I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse. August Pullman was born with a facial deformity that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. WONDER, now a #1 New York Times bestseller and included on the Texas Bluebonnet Award master list, begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance. "Wonder is the best kids' book of the year," said Emily Bazelon, senior editor at Slate.com and author of *Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy*. In a world where bullying among young people is an epidemic, this is a refreshing new narrative full of heart and hope. R.J. Palacio has called her debut novel "a meditation on kindness" —indeed, every reader will come away with a greater appreciation for the simple courage of friendship. Auggie is a hero to root for, a diamond in the rough who proves that you can't blend in when you were born to stand out. (ages 8 and up, 320 pgs)

Vision and Hearing Differences

***The Black Book of Colors* by Menena Cottin and Rosana Faria**

Living with the use of one's eyes can make imagining blindness difficult, but this innovative title invites readers to imagine living without sight through remarkable illustrations done with raised lines and descriptions of colors based on imagery. Braille letters accompany the illustrations and a full Braille alphabet offers sighted readers help reading along with their fingers. This extraordinary title gives young readers the ability to experience the world in a new way. (ages 5-10, 24pgs)

***Brian's Bird* by Patricia Ann Davis**

Eight-year-old Brian, who is blind, learns how to take care of his new parakeet and comes to realize that his older brother, while sometimes careless, is not so bad after all. (ages 6 and up, 32pgs)

***Knots on a Counting Rope* (Reading Rainbow Books) by Bill Martin Jr.**

In this poignant story, the counting rope is a metaphor for the passage of time and for a boy's emerging confidence in facing his blindness. (Ages 4-8, 42 pgs)

***The Hickory Chair* by Lisa Rowe Fraustino**

"Lilacs with a whiff of bleach." Gran's smell. That "rich molasses voice." Gran reading stories. By these things, Luis knows his grandmother. And he knows that she loves him. But when Gran passes away and leaves notes hidden in her things for each family member to find, Luis seems to be the only one forgotten. Could it be so? The answer comes generations later, when Luis himself is a grandfather, and his faith is only proved right. Truly, this is a story that uses all the senses to convey its loving message. (ages 4-8, 32pgs)

***Looking Out for Sarah* by Glenna Lang**

In this story of friendship, loyalty, and trust, Sarah and her guide dog, Perry, go about their busy day. Perry helps Sarah go shopping, to the post office, and take the train to school. Sarah, a blind musician and teacher, entertains the children and tells them about the time she and Perry walked from Boston to New York to show the world what a blind person can accomplish with the help of a guide dog like Perry. This true story of an amazing black Labrador retriever and his owner will inspire young readers to follow their own dreams and give them the courage to achieve anything. (ages 4-8, 32 pgs)

***Lucy's Picture* by Nicola Moon**

Lucy's grandpa is coming for a visit and she wants to surprise him with a picture. At school the rest of the class is painting--but paint is not right for Lucy's picture. Lucy wants to make a collage. As she sets about collecting things for her collage, her imagination takes hold, and her project grows into a beautiful gift from the heart. Full-color illustrations. (ages 3 and up, 32pgs)

***Through Grandpa's Eyes* (Harper Trophy Book) by Patricia MacLachlan**

On John's visits to Grandpa's house, his blind grandfather shares with him the special way he sees and moves in the world. (Ages 4-8, 40 pgs)

***See The Ocean* by Estelle Condra**

A gentle story about a little girl and her family and their annual visits to the beach. It is there where Nellie plays in the water, learns to walk, and is told stories about the sea. Her brothers always have a contest to see who can see the water first, but not Nellie. Why? Readers discover the reason when one year it is very foggy and the boys cannot see the ocean, but Nellie announces that she can see it and describes it as a man with a white beard and feet made of shells. Their mother tells the boys that their blind sister can see with her mind. The story is beautifully done as well as nicely illustrated with oil paintings of the seaside and the family, always hiding Nellie's eyes with a hat. The little girl may seem overly romanticized, but her activities at the beach and her lovely description make up for it. Margaret C. Howell, West Springfield Elementary School, VA Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title. (K-3rd grd., 32pgs)

***The Secret Code* by Dana Meachen Rau**

Oscar, a blind boy, explains to his classmates that his books are not written in secret code, but in Braille. The Braille alphabet is illustrated so that sighted children can learn to recognize the letters and decipher a note that Oscar sends to a friend. An author's note suggests that children may wish to request a Braille book from the library. The watercolor-and-ink illustrations fill each page with the busy clutter of the classroom scenes. The message that comes across in this primer is that reading is fun whether one uses one's eyes or one's fingers. Sharon R. Pearce, formerly at San Antonio Public Library, TX

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***Rainbow Joe and Me* by Maria Diaz Strom**

Eloise is a young artist who loves to mix colors. Sitting on the front stoop of her house, she tells her neighbor, Rainbow Joe, how she combines red and white to make fish, and red and blue to make monkeys. Rainbow Joe explains that even though he is blind he can imagine colors. Not only that, he can make them sing. Eloise's mother says the blind man is just dreaming. It isn't until Rainbow Joe takes out his saxophone and plays colors that Mama and Eloise can see them. Big red notes and little yellow notes begin to fly as music fills the sky. (ages 5 and up, 32 pgs)

***Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller* by Sarah Miller**

Annie Sullivan was little more than a half-blind orphan with a fiery tongue when she arrived at Ivy Green in 1887. Desperate for work, she'd taken on a seemingly impossible job—teaching a child who was deaf, blind, and as ferocious as any wild animal. But if anyone was a match for Helen Keller, it was the girl who'd been nicknamed Miss Spitfire. In her efforts to reach Helen's mind, Annie lost teeth to the girl's raging blows, but she never lost faith in her ability to triumph. Told in first person, Annie Sullivan's past, her brazen determination, and her connection to the girl who would call her Teacher are vividly depicted in this powerful novel. (ages 10-12, 256 pgs)

***She Touched The World: Laura Bridgeman* by Sally Hobart**

When she was just two years old, Laura Bridgman lost her sight, her hearing, and most of her senses of smell and taste. At the time, no one believed a child with such severe disabilities could be taught to communicate, much less lead a full and productive life. But then a progressive doctor, who had just opened the country's first school for the blind in Boston, took her in. Laura learned to communicate, read, and write—and eventually even to teach. By the age of 12, she was world famous.

Audiences flocked to see her, and she was loved and admired by children everywhere. This fascinating and moving biography shows how Laura Bridgman paved the way for future generations of children with disabilities, making possible important advances in the way they would be educated. As a blind person with some hearing loss, Sally Hobart Alexander lends a unique and intimate perspective to this inspiring account. At last, the story of Laura Bridgman can find its long-deserved place alongside those of Louis Braille and Helen Keller. (ages 9 and up, 112 pgs)

***Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes* by Jonathan Auxier**

Peter Nimble and His Fantastic Eyes is the utterly beguiling tale of a ten-year-old blind orphan who has been schooled in a life of thievery. One fateful afternoon, he steals a box from a mysterious traveling haberdasher—a box that contains three pairs of magical eyes. When he tries the first pair, he is instantly transported to a hidden island where he is presented with a special quest: to travel to the dangerous Vanished Kingdom and rescue a people in need. Along with his loyal sidekick—a knight who has been turned into an unfortunate combination of horse and cat—and the magic eyes, he embarks on an unforgettable, swashbuckling adventure to discover his true destiny. (ages 10 and up, 404 pgs)

Picture Books

***Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae**

Giraffes Can't Dance is a touching tale of Gerald the giraffe, who wants nothing more than to dance. With crooked knees and thin legs, it's harder for a giraffe than you would think. Gerald is finally able to dance to his own tune when he gets some encouraging words from an unlikely friend. With light-footed rhymes and high-stepping illustrations, this tale is gentle inspiration for every child with dreams of greatness. (ages 4 and up, 32 pgs)

***We're Different, We're the Same* (Sesame Street) by Bobbi Kates**

The colorful characters from Sesame Street teach young children about racial harmony. Muppets, monsters, and humans compare noses, hair, and skin and realize how different we all are. But as they look further, they also discover how much we are alike. (ages 3-7, 32pgs)

***Everyone Matters: A First Look at Respect for Others* by Pat Thomas**

Children learn that having respect means treating everyone fairly. But there are some types of respect that each person must earn for themselves--by keeping promises, by being honest in what they say and do, and being polite and respectful to others. Most important of all, boys and girls learn that people who are different deserve just as much respect as close friends. This new title in Barron's growing series of *A First Look at . . .* books is written especially for preschool and early-grades children. Books in this series feature sensitively written stories that encourage boys and girls to explore their feelings, face new challenges in their lives, and talk to trusted elders about how to deal with things that bother them. The books feature child-friendly color illustrations on every page. An advice to parents section appears at the end of each book. (ages 4-8, 32pgs)

***Big Al* by Andrew Clements Yoshi**

Poor Big Al! He just wants to make friends. And in the whole wide blue sea you can't find a nicer fish. But because Big Al is large and scary-looking, the little fish are afraid to get to know him. What can he do? He tries everything he can think of -- from disguising himself with seaweed to burrowing under the ocean floor so he'll look smaller. But something always goes wrong, and lonely Big Al wonders if he'll ever have a single friend. Then one frightening day, when a fishing net captures the other fish, Big Al gets the chance to prove what a wonderful friend he can be! (Ages 4 and up, 32pgs)

***Don't Call Me Special* by Pat Thomas**

This delightful picture book explores questions and concerns about physical disabilities in a simple and reassuring way. Younger children can find out about individual disabilities, special equipment that is available to help the disabled, and how people of all ages can deal with disabilities and live happy and full lives. Titles in this series for younger children explore emotional issues that boys and girls encounter as part of the growing-up process. Books are focused to appeal to kids of preschool through early school age. Written by psychotherapist and counselor Pat Thomas, *A First Look At* books promote positive interaction among children, parents, and teachers, and encourage kids to ask questions and confront social and emotional questions that sometimes present problems. Books feature appealing full-color illustrations on every page plus a page of advice to parents and teachers.

***A Rainbow of Friends* by PK Hallinan**

This book is for ages 3-5. Friends come in all colours and sizes; they can be funny or serious, musical or athletic, outgoing or quiet. This book reminds children to celebrate their differences because that is what makes each of us so special. (ages 3 and up, 32pgs)

***We'll Paint the Octopus Red* by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen**

As six-year-old Emma anticipates the birth of her new baby brother or sister, she vividly imagines all of the things they can do together. Emma feels ready to be a big sister! Then when the baby is born, her dad tells her that it's a boy and he has something called Down syndrome. Finally she asks, "If Isaac has this Down thing, then what can't he do?". Her dad thinks about it, then tells her that as long as they are patient with him, and help him when he needs it, there probably isn't anything Isaac can't do. In this touching story, Emma helps her father as much as he helps her to realise that Isaac is the baby they dreamed of. The book concludes with a set of commonly asked questions about Down syndrome with answers for children and how it might affect their sibling and family. (ages 3-7, 25 pgs)

***Let's Talk About It: Extraordinary Friends* by Fred Rogers**

How do you get to know someone in a wheelchair? Sometimes it's hard to know where to begin. In his characteristically wise and gentle way, Mister Rogers challenges the stereotypes that often plague children with special needs and celebrates six children who are extraordinary friends. (ages 4-8, 32pgs)

***Susan Laughs* by Jeanne Willis**

Susan laughs, she sings. she rides, she swings.

She gets angry, she gets sad, she is good, she is bad...

Told in rhyme, this story follows Susan through a series of familiar activities. She swims with her father, works hard in school, plays with her friends -- and even rides a horse. Lively, thoughtfully drawn illustrations reveal a portrait of a busy, happy little girl with whom younger readers will identify. Not until the end of the story is it revealed that Susan uses a wheelchair. Told with insight, and without sentimentality, here is an inspiring look at one spunky little girl whose physical disability is never seen as a handicap. (ages 4-7, 32pgs)

Other

Views From Our Shoes: Growing up with a Brother or Sister with Special Needs

by Donald Joseph Meyer

45 siblings share their experiences as the brother or sister of someone with a disability. The children whose essays are featured here range from four to eighteen and are the siblings of youngsters with a variety of special needs, including autism, cerebral palsy, developmental delays, ADD, hydrocephalus, visual and hearing impairments, Down and Tourette syndromes.

Their personal tales introduce young siblings to others like them, perhaps for the first time, and allow them to compare experiences. A glossary of disabilities provides easy-to-understand definitions of many of the conditions mentioned. (ages 9 and up, 114pgs)

***Because of Mr. Terupt* by Rob Buyea**

Features seven narrators, each with a unique story, and each with a different perspective on what makes their teacher so special. It's the start of fifth grade for seven kids at Snow Hill School. There's . . . Jessica, the new girl, smart and perceptive, who's having a hard time fitting in; Alexia, a bully, your friend one second, your enemy the next; Peter, class prankster and troublemaker; Luke, the brain; Danielle, who never stands up for herself; shy Anna, whose home situation makes her an outcast; and Jeffrey, who hates school. Only Mr. Terupt, their new and energetic teacher, seems to know how to deal with them all. He makes the classroom a fun place, even if he doesn't let them get away with much . . . until the snowy winter day when an accident changes everything—and everyone. (ages 9-12, 288 pgs)

***The Man Who Loved Clowns* by June Rae Wood**

Delrita likes being invisible. If no one notices her, then no one will notice her uncle Punky either. Punky is a grown man with a child's mind. Delrita loves him dearly and can't stand people making fun of his Down's syndrome. But when tragedy strikes, Delrita's quiet life—and Punky's—are disrupted forever. Can she finally learn to trust others, for her own sake and Punky's? This story captures the joy and sorrow that come when we open our hearts to love. (ages 8-12, 234 pgs)

***My Sister, My Friend* by Danielle Torres**

My Sister, My Friend is an endearing tale of two sisters, one who has Williams syndrome and one who does not. It is meant to be used as a tool for parents/teachers to read with their children. It will take you on a journey through the youngest child's questions about why her older sister is a little different from her. Throughout the book, Williams syndrome is discussed with respect, as well as accurate information. The journey begins with questions, but it ends with acceptance, understanding, love, and, most of all, friendship. (52 pgs)