

IBBY Collection for Young People with Disabilities
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IBBY
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BOOKS FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE

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BOOKS FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE



2021 IBBY SELECTION

of Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities

Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities 2021

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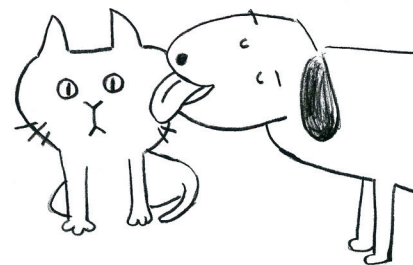
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*Uri-aireul-sogaehamnida: Dangsin-eonjedeun-mannal-su
inneun-teukbyeolhan-aideul iyagi (cat. no. 32)*

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*Uri-aireul-sogaehamnida: Dangsin-eonjedeun-mannal-su
inneun-teukbyeolhan-aideul iyagi (cat. no. 32)*



Of Course You Can! = Ka Taeā Tonu e Koe!
(cat. no. 25)

Welcome!

Welcome to the 2021 annotated catalogue of the IBBY Selection of Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities. The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) initiated this project in 1981 to celebrate the UN International Year of Disabled Persons. The collection was then established in 1985 at the Norwegian Institute for Special Education at the University of Oslo. In 2013, it moved to North York Central Library, part of the Toronto Public Library (TPL), in Toronto.

The aim of the IBBY Collection for Young People with Disabilities is to promote disability awareness and to encourage publication of books specifically designed for young people who are D/deaf or have disabilities. The IBBY Collection currently has more than 4,000 titles in over 40 languages. Highlights of the collection include:

- Special formats such as Braille, Picture Communication Symbols, sign language
- One-of-a-kind tactile and textile books
- Extensive collection of picture books and novels that promote inclusion and disability awareness

The books in the IBBY Collection (1991-2021) are kept as reference for research or reading in the library. Researchers are asked to make an appointment by calling or emailing ahead of time. All submissions in the collection are listed in the catalogue and can be viewed on the TPL website: Special Collections > IBBY Collection. Previous IBBY catalogues are also available online. While the annotations are all written in English, the books are in the original languages.

Inquiries are always welcome. To get more information, you can:

- view annotated catalogue: www.ibby.org or www.tpl.ca/ibby
- ask for reference help by email: ibby@tpl.ca
- Phone +1 416 395 5630 or visit at 5120 Yonge St., Toronto ON Canada

We thank the members of the IBBY National Sections who helped us select some of the best examples from their countries.

They identified the books, read and evaluated them, and then submitted their recommendations for inclusion in this selection. We would also like to thank the many publishers who have generously provided copies of these books for the collection.

Our deepest appreciation goes to Sharon Moynes, Peggy Thomas, Amy Mathers, Denise Scott and Bradley Kwan along with the staff at the Toronto Public Library and the volunteers from across Canada, who assisted in the creation of this 2021 catalogue.

Toronto and Basel, March 2021

Leigh Turina and Bonnie Ing

Lead Librarians,

IBBY Collection for Young People with Disabilities

Elizabeth Page

IBBY Executive Director

Frida, c'est moi (cat. no. 22)



Forward

The year that was

2020. This was the year we did not expect. The COVID-19 pandemic spread across the world, creating restrictions and changes that shattered personal routines, economies, and societies as we knew them. At the IBBY Collection we determined that the need for children and teens to have books was more crucial than ever and moved forward with necessary adaptations to our usual strategy.

Submission deadlines were postponed, books were submitted electronically, and selection meetings were held by video conference. Hard copies of the print books were mailed to the IBBY Secretariat. This workaround proved to be fortuitous as more people could be involved in the whole process. We anticipate using these modifications to assist in future selections.

Submissions

Having changed the deadlines, books poured in from a greater number of countries. We were excited to receive 194 submissions from 31 countries in 23 languages. We have chosen 40 outstanding books from 26 countries

in 21 languages. New languages this year are a book in Sinhala from Sri Lanka and a dual language book in Maori and English from New Zealand.

We often say that these 40 outstanding books are only a few examples of the amazing submissions that we receive. For this reason, we are pleased when National Sections share their submissions through social media, print, exhibitions and other means so that there is a wider awareness of the significance of these books.

A key reason for making this biennial selection is to educate authors, illustrators, educators, carers as well as publishers about the need for representation of characters who are D/deaf or have disabilities in books for young people across the world.

Do we still need special books for young people with disabilities?

This year we received fewer submissions in specialized formats. We acknowledge that technology has improved,

but there will always be challenges of access to electronic devices whether by geography or economic means. For the many dedicated teachers and parents trying to make tactile books, books in Braille, Picture Communication Symbols or other customized formats for their children and teens, there will continue to be a need for examples of these specialized books in the IBBY Collection.

Upcoming Trends

Additional access

Several of the current submissions *David: Misija Mogoče* (3) and *Stress Check* (8) offer QR codes giving additional information via videos, MP4 files or print files. The easy-to-read movement, often involving people with disabilities in the writing or production choices, is publishing books, such as *Dracula* (10), which answer needs for people with developmental, learning or intellectual differences but work equally well for people learning a new language or working on literacy.

More graphics

The increased use of graphics in children's fiction and nonfiction books is also reflected in the IBBY Collection. In addition to the two graphic novels featured in the 2021

Selection, other submissions such as *L'incroyable destin de Stephen Hawking qui perça les mystères de l'Univers* (37) and *Detta är mitt liv* (27) rely on the illustrations to portray more details about the character, just as a graphic novel might.

Communication

We have noted a remarkable increase in non-verbal characters who generally communicate throughout the story using first-person narration. This trend is a positive response to the need for inclusive representation of individuals who cannot communicate orally. Writing in this way shows respect for the growing awareness that all communication is valid and should never be viewed as an indicator of intellectual ability.

Representation

In a world where people are increasingly speaking out about how they would like to be seen or represented, we also looked at these issues through our selection. The drive for inclusion of 'own voices' is gaining momentum. While it is important for authors from marginalized groups with lived experience to be promoted and published, there is an equal need for other authors to do careful research

before writing and representing characters outside of their own experiences. We recognize the universality of human emotions regardless of the point of view or situation. The 2021 Selection strives to represent both kinds of authors to illustrate these diverse perspectives.

Ground-breaking portrayals

This has been a year for submissions that we have not encountered previously. They include a character who experiences sexual abuse, a wheelchair user being exploited to transport drugs, an acknowledgement of euthanasia for people with disabilities during WWII, and a fantasy novel featuring a heroine with Down syndrome. We are pleased to see that authors and illustrators are moving past a simple display of disability or deafness to portray complex characters whose differences are secondary to the plot or character development.

Every year the submissions grow more varied, more realistic, and immensely more wonderful. We regret not being able to include more of these books in the 2021 Selection, but we hope that these 40 examples will give you an idea of what is already published and inspiration about what could be available. We thank all the IBBY

National Sections who brought these books to our attention. Whenever you get the chance, please take a trip to Toronto to see all the submissions from 1991 forward. The IBBY Collection is a treasure trove of great books for young people with different challenges.



Detta är mitt liv (cat. no. 27)



Planète! (cat. no. 1)

Category 1: Specialized Formats

Books using different systems and designs can help to make reading accessible to everyone. Specialized formats include Braille, sign language, non-verbal communication systems and other designs.

- 1 Findeling, Marie (text and ill.)
Planète! (Planet!)
Talent, France: Les Doigts Qui Rêvent, 2018
[20pp.] ISBN 978-2-36593-075-8

This brightly-coloured tactile book introduces readers to the evolution of a planet, from the formation of the planet's core through the development of the natural landscape to the growth of cities. It uses realistic textures, such as sandpaper and artificial moss, to portray the planet's environment and also includes interactive elements, like moveable space ships. Children can even add their own LEGO® pieces onto the bases provided to create buildings in the new cities.

Particularly well-suited to children with vision loss, this book provides a tactile method of introducing readers to

abstract concepts, for example outer space and cities, that are typically taught using visuals. With both large print and Braille text, children with and without vision loss can enjoy this book together. The spiral binding and thick cardstock allow the pages to turn easily, making it easier to read the Braille and interact with the tactile elements. It also includes a Braille alphabet. Due to the abstract concepts and small, detachable pieces, this book is best suited to older children or those with adult accompaniment.



Kororin pa! (cat. no. 2)

- 2** Hiragi, Mitsue (creator) **Kororin pa!** (*Spinning on!*)
Tokyo, Japan: Holp Shuppan, 2019
[8pp.] ISBN 978-4-593-10056-9

Children will enjoy the onomatopoeic language and interactive mazes in this Japanese board book. With a new maze on each page, readers can use their finger or their own assistive tool (not provided) to move a donut-shaped disc through the curving pathways. The accompanying text describes each disc's journey and always ends with a shout, "*Kororin pa!*"



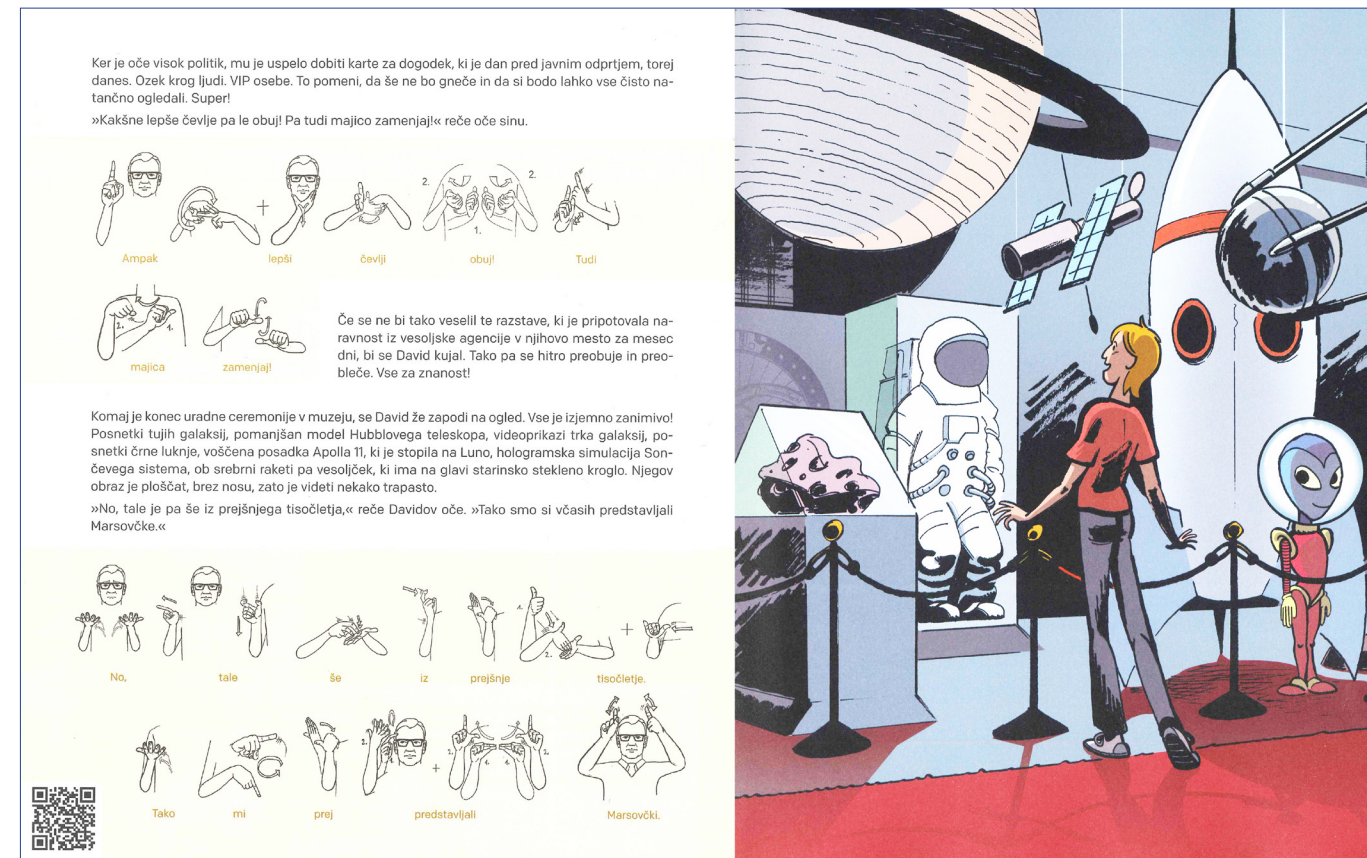
Neringa ir Naglis (cat. no. 5)

Accessible to a wide range of abilities, this book is great for children developing their fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. The simple, uncluttered design and large print text are well-suited to children with low vision or developmental disabilities. The sturdy board book format makes the book durable and safe for children of all ages.

- 3** Kermauner, Aksinja (text) Rus, Gašper (ill.),
Vogel, Nikolaj (gestures),
Ciglar, Veronika (sign language interpreter)
David: Misija Mogoe (*David: mission possible*)
Ljubljana, Slovenia: Zveza društev gluhih in naglušnih
Slovenije, 2020 [74pp.] ISBN 978-961-94804-1-0

Fifteen-year-old David is besotted with astronomy and space and would like to be an astronaut. When his dad takes him to a special space exhibition, he meets an alien, who uses sign language to tell David that the earth is in danger of collapse. Because David is deaf he can translate, but who will believe him?

This science fiction adventure is a simply written exciting read in print as well as Slovenian Sign Language. The comic-style illustrations by Rus are colourful. Outstanding sign language illustrations by Vogel are notable for their



David: Misija Mogoče (cat. no. 3)



depiction of facial expressions, movement and his lived experience with hearing loss. In an innovative twist, conversations between David and the alien have QR codes attached, which lead to videos demonstrating the signing of the words of the text on those pages. Few books offer such a variety of access points for readers who are D/deaf.

4 Meheidli, Nabihah (text) Amikan, Hasan (ill.)

Tok Tok (*Knock knock*)

Beirut, Lebanon: Al-Hadaek Group,
2018
[24pp.] ISBN 978-614-439-163-1

Using onomatopoeic language and bold illustrations, this book teaches readers about sounds and rhythms. Each page features a different sound and its source, such as the banging of a hammer, the patter of rain, and the thump of a drum. Readers will be encouraged to notice the sounds around them and the ways that similar sounds or rhythms can come from a wide variety of sources.

The book features simple, large print Arabic text with transparent overlays of Braille text, making it a good choice for beginning readers as well as those with vision loss. The collage-style illustrations are bright and fun but this is also a book that is just as enjoyable without the images. The text and accompanying CD with the featured sounds and rhythms can be mimicked with simple actions to create an engaging, multisensory experience. The interactive nature of this story means it is as well suited to a group read-aloud as it is to independent reading.

5 Miliūnas, Viktoras (text) Kelpsa, Reinoldas (ill.)

Neringa ir Naglis (*Neringa and Naglis*)

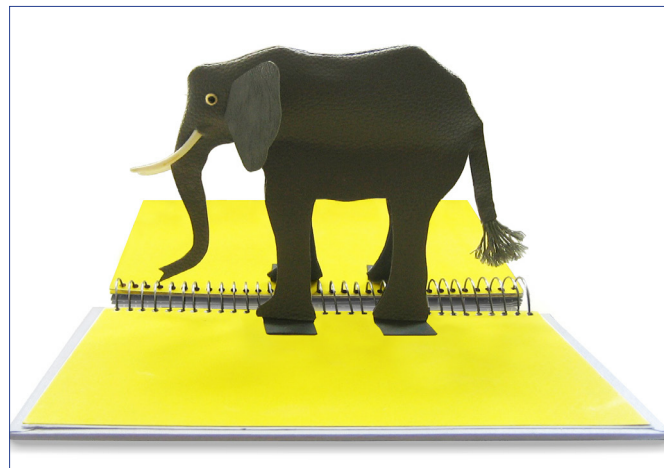
Vilnius, Lithuania: Verslas ar menas, 2020
[44pp.] ISBN 978-609-8225-05-01

"Tell me a story," the boy Evaldukas asks his grandfather. And so, Grandfather retells the legend of how the relationship between the beautiful Neringa and the fierce Naglis led to the creation of the Curonian Spit in the Baltic Sea. This tactile adaptation of an old Lithuanian folk tale is modernized and made outstanding by the bold creative illustrations of a 15 year old blind artist.

Kelpsa's distinct style is eye-catching and provides insight into how a blind artist interprets and creates visual works of art. To allow the book to be shared by those with and without vision loss, the collages were photographed, then embossed with overlays so they can be experienced by touch. By only embossing key aspects of the original images, the overlays cleverly remain true to the artist's striking designs without providing excessive or indecipherable details. The Braille and regular print text along with the illustrations make this book accessible to all readers, but the lengthy story is best suited to more advanced readers or those with adult accompaniment.



Klapperlapapp. Fühl mal, ein Tier! (cat. no. 6)



Yek Chizi Injast! (cat. no. 7)

6 Mönig, Antje (text and ill.)

Klapperlapapp. Fühl mal, ein Tier!

(Klapperlapapp. Feel, an animal!)

Leipzig, Germany: Deutsches Zentrum für barrierefreies Lesen, 2019 [13pp.] no ISBN

Part of the *Klapperlapapp* series, this book uses riddles and tactile illustrations to teach readers about the characteristics of animals. It is designed as a flipbook with spiral binding along the top. Each page is split vertically

down the middle so that the two sides can be turned independently. The left pages contain a short riddle describing the animal and a tactile illustration of the animal's back half. The right pages have the front half of the animal and the answer to the riddle. Readers can flip through the pages to match up an animal's two halves or pair up two different halves to form a new creature.

The cartoon-style illustrations are bright and slightly raised so that readers can feel the animal's outline. Each image uses different textures to represent the distinct characteristics of that animal, such as a bird's feathers, a sheep's wool, and a bee's wings. With both visual and tactile elements, as well as large print and Braille text, this book is great for children developing their matching skills by sight or touch. The whimsical activity of matching up new creatures will encourage creativity and collaboration between children with and without disabilities.

7 Naderi, Samaneh (text and paper engineering)

Yek Chizi Injast! (Something's here!)

Tehran, Iran: Samaneh Naderi, 2020

[22pp.] [ISBN 978-622-00-2117-9]

Based on a parable about a group of people who encounter

an elephant in a dark room, this pop-up tactile book encourages readers to think about how the context of an object influences the ways we interpret that object. In the parable, each person encounters only one part of the elephant and so, they each describe the elephant very differently. The person who felt the trunk describes the elephant like a water hose while the person touching the ear describes a fan but neither realizes that the individual body part is a piece of a larger whole.

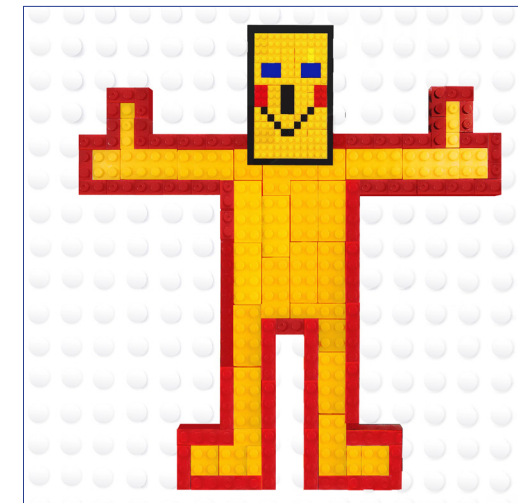
Each page contains a realistic, three-dimensional representation of a part of the elephant that pops up over the spiral binding. There are also prompting questions in large print and Braille in Farsi and English text. At the end is a complete elephant so the reader can understand how the body parts come together as a whole. This version is particularly outstanding because children with vision loss can more successfully interpret three-dimensional representations than they can the raised outlines that are more commonly used in tactile books.

8 Pupils of Glenveagh School (text and ill.)

Stress Check

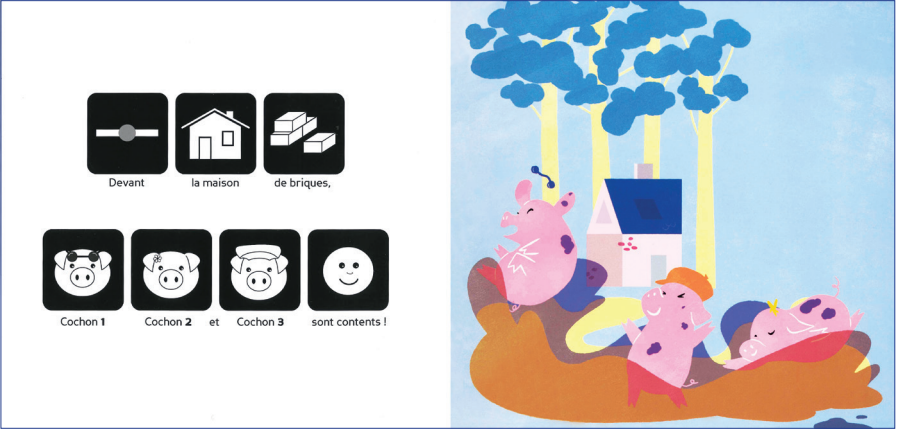
Belfast, NI, UK: Glenveagh Publishing, 2020

[32pp.] ISBN 978-1-912929-09-2



Stress Check (cat. no. 8)

Dedicated to anyone who needs a helping hand, *Stress Check* is a short guide for people who need help coping with stress and managing anger. It was written and illustrated by the students at Glenveagh School as a follow up to their earlier book, *Inner Peace* (IBBY Outstanding Selection 2019). These pupils, who have learning and cognitive disabilities, also bring lived experience to these situations. *Stress Check* helps the reader follow a checklist to recognize signs of stress in their bodies and teaches



Les trois petits cochons (cat. no. 9)

them to ask for help in managing their responses to difficult situations.

For easy access, the book offers plain language, and for those who cannot read, there are Picture Communication Symbols, an MP4 recording and a QR code to a video recording of the book. Bold and colourful, the illustrations are formed with LEGO®. *Stress Check* could easily be adapted for any person

who needs help with emotional regulation.

9 Sternis, Sylvie (adaption of text) Rakotomalala, Noro (ill.) Pistinier, Jeanne (pictograms) **Les trois petits cochons** (*The three little pigs*) Plouëc du Trieux, France: Lescalire, 2020 [44pp.] ISBN 978-2-9558937-2-2

The traditional tale of the *Three Little*

Pigs receives an innovative update in this French version. The story itself remains true to the original tale but is adapted into pictograms. Readers can enjoy the story by using the pictograms alone, or they can use the pictograms to help decipher the simplified text. On the page opposite the text, there is a sturdy flap that lifts up to reveal the accompanying illustrations, which are done using a simple but effective style and bold pastel colours. This format helps prevent overstimulation so that the reader can focus their attention first on the text and then on the image. For parents and teachers, a glossary of pictograms is included.

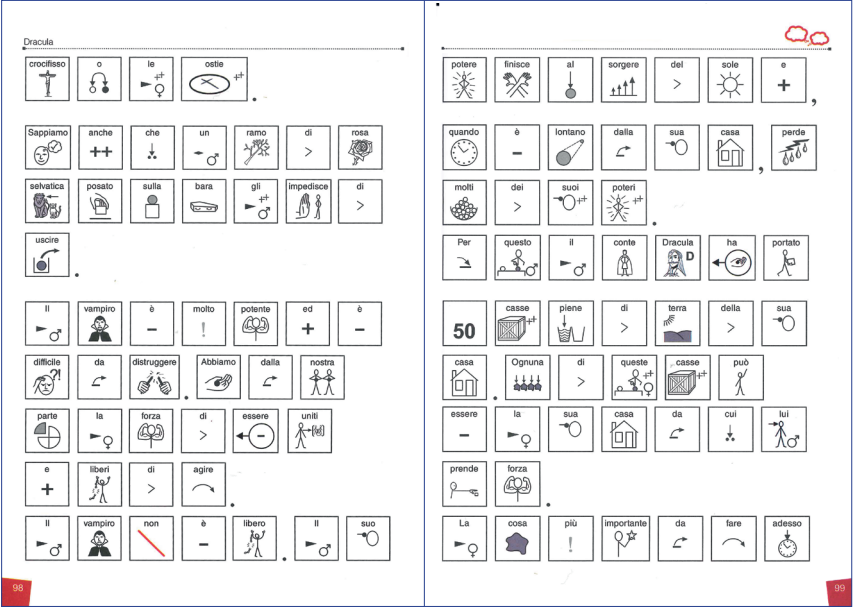
The creation of unique pictograms, using simple white graphics on a solid black background, provides high contrast for children with vision loss. Young people with learning or cognitive disabilities as well as those learning

French will also enjoy practicing their reading using this picture book.

10 Stoker, Bram (original text) Coop.Accaparlante, Assoc. Arca-Comunità L'Arcobaleno onlus (adapted text) Ottonello Ferrati, Melissa (ill.) **Dracula** Molfetta (BA), Italy: Ed. La meridiana, 2018 [132pp.] ISBN 978-88-6153-657-9

This tale of gothic horror starts with English solicitor Jonathan Harker, visiting Count Dracula in Transylvania. Then, dodging vampires, Jonathan tracks Dracula back to England in hopes of stopping his search for the blood of fresh victims.

A person with reading and learning difficulties or cognitive disabilities should be able to enjoy literary classics. The *Cooperativa Accaparlante* agreed and have simplified the diary entries of



Dracula (cat. no. 10)

the original story by Bram Stoker by translating the text into Widgit symbols. They were helped by the members of the *Associazione Arca-Comunità L'Arcobaleno*, which is a community of people with a variety of abilities.

By using simple picture communication symbols in black and white, with bright red in appropriate spots, this novel succeeds in maintaining literary quality along with the chills.

Haft Asb, Haft Rang (cat. no. 13)

هر کدام از اسب‌ها رنگی به اسب بی‌رنگ دادند،



اسب یک‌دام اکنون همه
رنگ برتن داشت.

Category 2: Universal Access

The books in this section are from the mainstream production. They are understandable to all individuals, in particular young people with learning or intellectual disabilities.

- 11** Alioshicheva, Anastasia (text)
Kurdiymova, Olena (ill.)
Svit dohory nohamy
(*The world is upside down*)
Kharkiv, Ukraine:
Ranok Publishing, 2018
[24pp.] ISBN 978-617-09-4471-9

In a world that is increasingly polarized by point of view, this picture book celebrates that there is no one way to view the world, and that what might seem upside down to someone, is the right way up to someone else. By using whimsical illustrations that universally

appeal and clearly communicate this concept, the book is a delight to read and share.

Badgers, bats, beavers and bears come alive in this picture book full of



Boy (cat. no. 12)

conversations and questions about each other. The young are always curious about others who seem to be different. Parents and teachers can use this book as a jumping-off place for talking about how others view the world. Indeed, asking questions such as, "is there one right way to see something?" gives children permission to incorporate other points of view into their world.

- 12** Cummings, Phil (text)
Devries, Shane (ill.)
Boy
Gosford, Australia:
Scholastic Press, 2017
[18pp.] ISBN 978-1-76027-705-5

Once upon a time there was a kingdom where the king and his knights were fighting a fierce dragon

who had destroyed the forest. A small boy, who was deaf, also lived there. He spoke with his dancing hands and drew pictures in the sand, but unfortunately, the villagers could not understand him. Boy could not hear the battles, but he could see the fear in his mother's eyes and he could feel it when his father held him close. One day he accidentally ran right into the middle of the battle, not hearing the warning shouts. Looking up, he was surprised to see everyone staring at him. He tried to talk with his hands but no one understood. So he wrote in the sand, "Why are you fighting?" Stunned, everyone stopped, reflected and realized there had been a misunderstanding.

The book is beautifully illustrated digitally using a water-colouring technique. Children will love reading the onomatopoeia, emphasizing the battle sounds, while the story develops more quietly. Boy's world, like ours, is loud around him. In the end, his question brings peace, calm and acceptance to the villagers as well as to the readers.



Detta är mitt liu (cat. no. 27)

- 13** Mohammadi, Mohammad Hadi (text) Safakho, Nooshin (ill.)
Haft Asb, Haft Rang (*Seven horses, seven colours*)
 Tehran, Iran: Institute for Research on the History of Children's Literature, 2017
 [32pp.] ISBN 978-600-7112-51-9

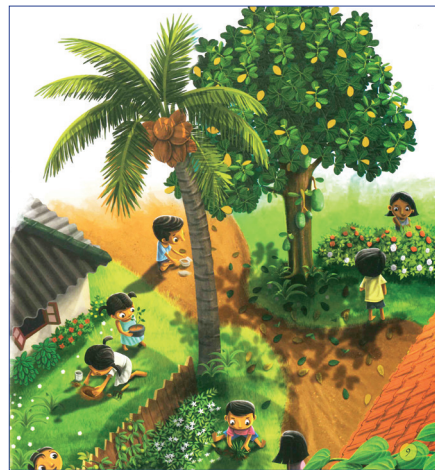
The power of imagination and creativity is explored in this picture book. A young girl, who spends her days in bed and in a wheelchair, explores the world through her creative dreams and imaginings. In her dream world there are seven horses, six of different colours, and one with no colour. Through friendship and community, the six horses share their colours with the seventh so that all find a sense of belonging. The story continues as the horses travel through different stages; in each, one horse is lacking some aspect that the other horses share. And later, the seventh horse shares his space, thoughts and colours with the young girl.

Poetic language, repetitive phrasing and glorious illustrations evoke ancient Persian literature. This story about the value of generosity and sharing will appeal to young children today. Moreover, this is a delightful book to be savoured more than once.



Suit dohory nohamy (cat. no. 11)

— Чому це я дивак? — спитав малюк.
 Тут утрутився другий борсук:
 — Та хіба тобі не набридло споглядати світ
 навпаки? Ну ж бо, спускайся, і ми покажемо тобі
 справжній світ!
 Саме цієї миті пролунав гучний крик:
 — Справжній сві-і-іт?! Справжній сві-і-іт?!
 У кроні дерева почувся шурхіт, і з-поміж гілля
 визирнуло кілька кажанів.



Lassana Gamē Hapannu (cat. no. 14)

- 14** Pathirathna, Mahesh (text)
Chathuranga, Nuwan (ill.)
Lassana Gam Hapannu
(Whiz kids of the beautiful village)
Rajagiriya, Sri Lanka:
Graphicare, 2019
[32pp.] ISBN 978-955-3400-15-4

Two young children enjoy gardening and living in a rural village, but when

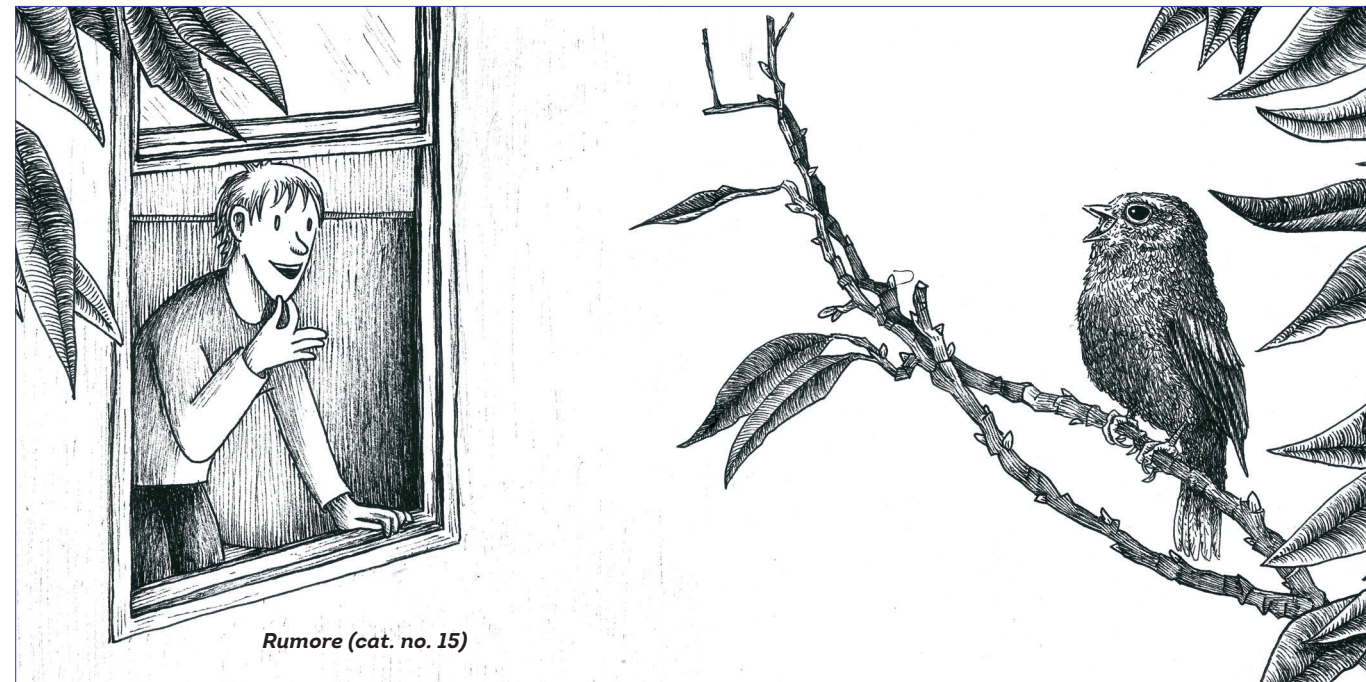
their mother gets a promotion they must move to a more urban life. The siblings are not happy with the move, but make the best of it by starting a gardening project to beautify their new home with the help of a school friend who uses crutches. They start to build community and slowly the entire town is transformed. The theme of this book can instill a sense that children can make a difference in their world, and that through small acts great changes occur.

It is important for the first books that children encounter to reflect their language, identity and culture. This picture book grew from the Room to Read initiative in Sri Lanka. Written and illustrated locally, it is not a translation of a story from a different country. Instead, the readers will readily see themselves and their lives reflected in the illustrations and situations. The young gardener using

crutches represents children with disabilities as a contributing part of the community.

- 15** Ralli, Luca (text. and ill.)
Rumore (Noise)
Milan, Italy: Carthusia Edizioni, 2019
[32pp.] ISBN 978-88-6945-089-1

Can the sounds we hear be translated into a print book? *Rumore* attempts to do just this, capturing the physical feeling of sound through illustration. This wordless book depicts a teen's daily walk by using strong, detailed black and white illustrations. Everyday life comes through clearly for the reader in this silent yet overwhelming soundscape. It brings into sharp focus the banal noises that people often come to ignore. Sound reverberates so forcefully through this book that in the end, when the boy finally returns to the silence of his bedroom, the reader feels the



Rumore (cat. no. 15)

calmness of that silence just as profoundly as they felt the harshness of the street noises.

But is that street noise harsh to our teenage protagonist? In this outstanding example of the graphic novel format,

Ralli provides an accessible platform for discussions of music versus noise and the ways that people experience and interpret sound differently. Readers can take a walk in the shoes of this boy and feel the noises he encounters, the music he creates, and the similarities between the two.

Category 3: Portrayals of Disability

This section includes general books that depict people with disabilities in picture books, fiction and nonfiction titles.

- 16** Aguirre, Marisa (text) Martinez, Paula Mariel (ill.)
Las preguntas de Delfina
(Delfina's questions)
 Buenos Aires, Argentina:
 V&R Editoras, 2019
 [32pp.] ISBN 978-987-747-486-2

Why do people look at me in a peculiar way? Why do people I don't know smile at me? I get angry when they treat me like a baby and I feel sad when they make fun of me. Delfina has Down syndrome and wonders why people treat her differently to her classmates or her brother. The first-person narrative of this

picture book serves to highlight the simple questions that Delfina, when she was young, asked her mother, the author. The fresh upbeat illustrations of Delfina accurately portray her curiosity, anger and frustrations along with all the things she wants to learn at school. Parents and teachers can use this calm quiet view of Down syndrome as an excellent starting point for discussions with young children about stereotypes and disabilities and it may well become a classic.

- 17** Bahnson, Annie (text)
Helt som de andre
(Just like the others)
 Copenhagen, Denmark:
 Gyldendal, 2018
 [181pp.] ISBN 978-870-22-7081-5

Leonora is a girl with an artificial leg. Her mother sees her prosthesis just

like glasses or freckles; her friend Wilma, who has her own disability, adamantly refuses to be defined by it. Leonora is fine living with her disability, until she falls in love with August and starts lying to keep him in the dark about her differences. Understandably, she wants to be just like the others, but as one lie gives rise to another, her own friends start to leave her.

The book is written mostly in the form of dialogue and it rocks! Not one character is out of place and the plot, which has some small elegant twists, is captivating. Leonora's intense feelings as she tries to manage her innocent lies draw you right in: you do not want Leonora to get caught—she is a fun and likeable girl—but you also want to shake her and tell her it is okay not to be like everybody else.



Ya me di cuenta de que el Síndrome de Down es una discapacidad.

Readers everywhere need more easy-to-read books with short chapters and a realistic main character with a disability. Teens will identify with the longing to be like others rather than be different. As Leonora learns, you are stronger when you accept yourself as you are.

- 18** Belenkova, Kseniya (text)
Khrantsov, Alexander (ill.)
IA uchus v chetvertom KRO
(My special education class, grade 4)
Moscow, Russia:
Meshcheryakov, 2019
[88pp.] ISBN 978-5-00108-355-9

In this short illustrated novel, the reader is invited to spend a school year with a grade four special education class in Moscow. The nine chapters are each written from the perspective of a different student, all of whom think their fellow classmates



are strange. Some fight, some laugh uncontrollably, others fall asleep or talk to imaginary friends, but their behaviour is always based on how each student interprets the world.

This easy read with humorous illustrations and many funny incidents will entice readers, but it is the novel's

approach to disability representation that makes it truly outstanding. It focuses on the individuals rather than their medical diagnoses, which are not revealed but would likely be autism and other behavioural, learning, and cognitive disabilities. The main plot revolves around the classroom but the characters become more nuanced as problems at home such as alcoholism, death and custody issues are also addressed. This book will make you laugh and cry, but it will also remind you that a person with a disability is more than just their diagnosis. Each voice is unique and deserves to be heard.

- 19** Castro, Francisco (text)
Iridium
Vigo, Spain: Editorial Galaxia, 2019
[108pp.] ISBN 978-84-9151-193-9

Waking up from a 7-month coma after an automobile accident, Iris now finds herself with a traumatic brain injury

and other medical issues, including memory loss and needing a wheelchair. Iris feels like the person she has always been, but her former friends do not know how to act around her. She finds comfort in a budding relationship with Mario, a new boy at school, and by connecting with the world through her Instagram account. Carefully curating an online persona gives Iris some control over how other people see her but still she rages, "I want to be normal; treat me as normal."

In 16 short chapters, this first-person narrative is scattered with emojis, social media posts, text messages and colloquial language. The contemporary style makes it an easy read for teens with a brain injury or learning disability but also intriguing to a wider teen audience, many of whom may know someone with a brain injury such as a concussion. The author worked with *Asociación Alento de Dano Cerebral and Federación*

Galega de Daño Cerebral as well as a young woman with lived experience to create a realistic and enjoyable novel.

- 20** Connor, Leslie (text)
The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle
New York, USA: Katherine Tegen Books, 2018
[352pp.] ISBN 978-0-06-249143-5

Mason, the largest, sweatiest kid in Grade 7, has dyslexia and struggles to read and write. Although his size and learning disability make him a target for Matt's gang of bullies, he shrugs off their mean tricks with the thought, "Tell you what. Worse has happened." Among his troubles are a 'walk-away' daddy, the loss of Gramps and his mother, and best friend Benny's fatal fall from a treehouse in the family apple orchard. Police suspect Mason knows more about what happened to Benny than he is telling, and when his



¡Qué suerte tengo! (cat. no. 36)

new friend Calvin disappears, he endures harsh questioning.

Mason's remarkable narrative voice allows readers to experience the world from his perspective and to see him fully, not just his disability. Children who share Mason's reading challenges will recognize themselves and cheer on a memorable main character



Frida, c'est moi (cat. no. 22)

who excels as a kind, honest person and loyal friend with a generous spirit. A wonderful family or school read-aloud could spark discussion and encourage empathy. Short sentences, short chapters, cream-coloured matte paper and easy-to-decode font make this realistic mystery novel accessible to those who have difficulties with reading. Adults in all fields could develop awareness about tailoring their approach to suit the differences of those with learning disabilities.

21 Elliott, Joseph (text)

The Good Hawk

London, UK: Walker Books, 2020
[368pp.] ISBN 978-1-4063-8585-4

This fantasy novel set in a mythic Scotland thrusts Agatha and Jaime into an unknown world as they race to come to the aid of their clan, captured by Viking-like raiders and taken into a life of slavery. In a world where action

is prized above all else, Jaime suffers from debilitating anxiety, and Agatha, who was born 'different', can also communicate with animals, which further alienates her from the clan to which she desperately tries to belong. Celebrating what makes them unique, the pair eventually find a way to work together. Like all quests, their own internal battles become the important ones to which readers relate.

It is rare that a fantasy novel has as its heroine a young woman with Down syndrome. Agatha is impulsive, headstrong and not stereotypical, which is why this ground-breaker is not a typical book about disability. Enjoy, but do note that there are violent deaths depicted in this action-packed book, such as throat slitting or an axe to the head, but in the reviewer's experience, this only enhances the novel for pre-teens and teens.

22 Faucher, Sophie (text)

Carmina, Cara (ill.)

Frida, c'est moi (It's me, Frida)

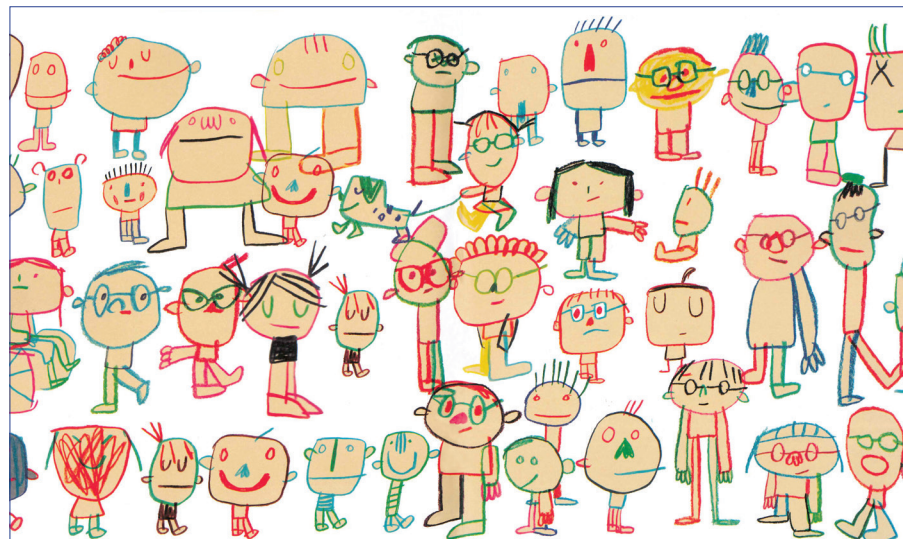
Montréal, Canada:

Éditions Edito, 2016

[32pp.] ISBN 978-2-924720-03-5

Based on the early life of Frida Kahlo, this book illuminates the artistic and creative environment that fostered Frida's outlook on life. In childhood, Frida contracted polio and as a result, she walked with a limp. Although teased at school, she did not let this define her and she developed skills in soccer, climbing trees and riding a bike. At 18, Frida was involved in a horrendous accident that required her to stay immobile in bed for three months and gave her pain for the rest of her life. This is when her painting career began.

The quality of this book is superb; the illustrations are vibrant and inviting. The story is poetic and describes



No somos angelitos (cat. no. 24)

Frida's resiliency and development vividly. The artwork is also rooted in her culture, providing another avenue to explore as a reader. Sharing this book in a group setting or as a family read-aloud opens up avenues for discussion about dealing with difficult situations, building understanding and coping skills, as

well as finding new ways to express oneself when faced with loss.

23 Garrido, Javier (text and ill.)
Un Día Perfecto (A perfect day)
 Buenos Aires, Argentina:
 Cuatro Islas, 2016
 [48pp.] ISBN 978-987-29295-4-1

In *Un Día Perfecto*, the narrator's day begins as usual. He gets up, eats his breakfast, and goes to school - the same old routine. But on this day at school, his class must join another one. That is where he sees her: Augustina! Suddenly, magic happens and his life changes. He tries to share with Augustina the way he feels but his hand flies around in frustration. His communication board has no picture symbols that will work! They settle for holding hands. At the end of the day, flying high with happiness, he goes home and creates a new symbol to show her. It is a big red heart.

This Argentinian picture book about a teen with cerebral palsy is for older children, particularly for those who understand a longing for relationships. The first-person narrative with simple text provides a window into the inner life of humour and emotions of a person who feels strongly but cannot communicate verbally. The soft crayon sketches add

realistic details about teens in wheelchairs. This is not a sentimental inspirational tale; when the magic of love strikes, it can happen to anyone.

24 Gusti (text and ill.)
No somos angelitos
(We are not angels)
 Barcelona, Spain: Ed. Océano, SL, 2017
 [60pp.] ISBN 978-607-527-327-3

Children with Down syndrome are not angels or magical beings or treasures, at least not more so than any other child. This is the point that our protagonist Malko, a boy with Down syndrome, makes throughout this rollicking, colourful picture book. Malko is a mischievous child and clearly takes great delight in the ways that he and his 'friend', the extra chromosome Trisomy-21, challenge his Papa Gusti and his Mama. The handwritten text and naïve illustrations in bold crayoned colours bring to life both



Un Día Perfecto (cat. no. 23)

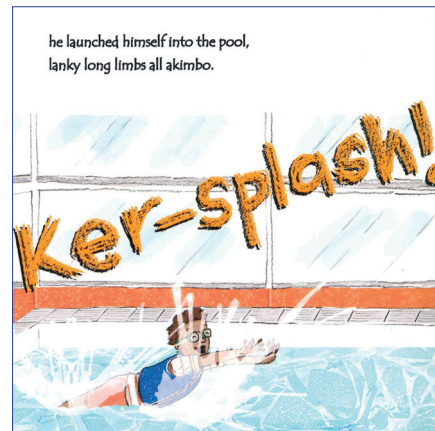
Malko's authentic voice as well as a subtext of parental emotions - their adoration as well as exasperation.

The beauty of this story is the way it uses humour and irony to challenge the oversimplified image of people with Down syndrome as overly positive,

amiable or docile. Impossibly positive stereotypes are just as bad as negative ones. Malko is shown dropping a roll of toilet paper into the toilet and artistically decorating the couch with markers, and it is very clear that these behaviours are intentional. While extra information on Down syndrome is included at the back, the key use of this picture book is to establish a new way of understanding children like Malko.

25 Hinge, Karen (text) Sievert, Nicky (ill.)
Of Course You Can! = Ka Taea Tonu e Koe!
 Ellerslie, New Zealand:
 OneTree House, 2018
 [32pp.] ISBN 978-0-473-42185-4

Jeremy is nervous about starting a new school. Each time he encounters a new activity he exclaims, "I can't do that!" "Course you can!" is a classmate's cheery reply.



Of Course You Can! = Ka Taea Tonu e Koe!
(cat. no. 25)

And, with a few modifications, he discovers he can. As each day goes by with a new task accomplished, Jeremy's happiness and confidence grows. Finally, it is swimming day. "You can't swim!" his classmates tell him. "Course I can!" he replies. And he can.

This picture book from a New Zealand author features parallel text in English

and Maori. The written plain language uses repetition of the phrase, "Course you can!" along with a pattern of alternating between days at school and evenings with his mother. Together with clear illustrations, these create a highly readable story. Jeremy's disability is not named or discussed, but in illustrations we see that he uses a wheelchair. We also see a racially diverse group of children in which most young readers will be able to see themselves. Jeremy is a realistic character who is not stereotyped or pitied for his disability.

- 26** Honingh, Tineke (text)
Het (on)gewone verhaal van Bo (en Tom)
(The [extra]ordinary story of Bo [and Tom])
Amsterdam, Netherlands:
Van Holkema & Warendorf, 2018
[176pp.] ISBN 978-90-00-35963-9

The first day of Grade 8 in a new school

is stressful, and even more so for Bo, who has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair. Bo is a spunky character who will not be defined by her disability. She has a very clear picture of the types of the people around her: the busybodies who want to do things for her; the 'side lookers' who pretend not to notice her disability; the people who assume she is developmentally delayed because of her physical disability. Tom, her new classmate, has been assigned to help her as punishment for an undisclosed misbehavior. Excluded from the popular crowd and united by their closely guarded secrets as well as a dislike for pity, this unlikely pair forms a firm friendship.

Punchy, clever dialogue will pull teen readers into this humorous novel with characters they can relate to and eventually learn from. Bo (and Tom's) story delivers an important message about friendship, bullying and standing up for yourself. Its success lies in its

ability to do so while still maintaining its lighthearted tone and without becoming didactic.

- 27** Lagercrantz, Rose (text)
Furmark, Annelie (ill.)
Detta är mitt liv (*This is my life*)
Stockholm, Sweden:
Bonnier Carlsen Bökforlag, 2019
[112pp.] ISBN 978-91-7803-333-1

Sophia has always felt different from the other kids at summer camp; they do not understand her and she does not understand them. But is this typical teen insecurity or is it because she is autistic? This year Sophia is 14. This year will be fun and everyone will like her – she will make sure of it! On her birthday, she plans to serve everyone cake and deliver a big speech about what her life is really like. But how will the others respond?

Sophia's frustrations, anger and love



Detta är mitt liv (cat. no. 27)

of life are aptly portrayed through a mix of comic book bubbles, short chapters and graphic illustrations. The graphic format is not just a stylistic choice to attract the teen audience, it can also help readers interpret the characters' emotions and reactions. Sophia's conversations with her mother also ring true to life and provide some insight into the experience of parenting a child with autism. Accessible and realistic, this outstanding novel will

resonate not only with teens on the autism spectrum, but also with any teen who has worried about fitting in.

- 28** Larsen, Bjarke Schjødt (text)
Standby
Aarhus, Denmark: Turbine, 2017
[214pp.] ISBN 978-87-406-1348-3

In our demanding world, being a teenager is hard. It is even harder when you are required to take on more family obligations than most of your peers. Nicklas' brother Storm has multiple disabilities: he is non-verbal, uses a wheelchair and needs a great deal of help from his brother and his single mother. Once Storm is diagnosed with cystic fibrosis and his mother becomes less capable of handling his care, Nicklas must take on more and more responsibility. Nicklas puts his life on hold until a budding romance with Liva lightens his spirits and brings some perspective.

Standby is a realistic, engaging novel for teens. The serious issues are handled thoughtfully, and although difficult, are brought to the attention of the reader gradually and sensitively. Notably, the main caregiver is a young man who brings together the issues, challenges and joys of caring for a sibling with disabilities. Though popular culture often portrays teens as immature and self-centered, there are many young adults for whom responsibilities weigh heavy and they will connect with this portrayal, while other readers may use it to gain insight into a different world.

- 29** McCreary, Michael (text)
Funny, You Don't Look Autistic
 Toronto, Canada:
 Annick Press, 2019
 [176pp.] ISBN 978-1-77321-257-9

Stand-up Canadian comic Michael McCreary has not written a medical explanation of autism nor has he

composed a pensive journal about being autistic. Instead, this nonfiction title is a mix of life story and facts written with one liners and scenes about the subject he knows best – autism – all viewed through the lens of a comedian who happens to be on the spectrum (ASD).

Sprinkled amid stories of refusing to wear socks and battling bullies in high school, Michael's information sidebars are not simplified, but they are short, clearly written and personalized, making them easy to understand. This book is outstanding because it is a breezy, laughable read written in a conversational style. You will enjoy it,



Un Día Perfecto (cat. no. 23)

but what will stick in your mind is a fuller understanding of living life in a different way.

- 30** Muranaka, Rie (text)
 Ishikawa, Eriko (ill.)
Kokun (*The big nod*)
 Tokyo, Japan: Doshinsha
 Publishing Co., LTD, 2019
 [34pp.] ISBN 978-4-494-01631-0

On the playground, children are running, jumping, using stilts, but Chisato uses a walker to get around. Shun, a mischievous boy in her class asks, "isn't it bothersome?" However, Shun also observes Chisato's determination and resolve to do things for herself, noticing that when she gives a big nod, it means she wants to try it on her own. With Shun's encouragement, Chisato climbs three steps to the stage in order to sing with her class and eventually climbs the ladder of the slide by herself at recess. Shun



Kokun (cat. no. 30)

follows Chisato up the slide and celebrates her accomplishment. Both children change that day and a friendship is born.

The illustrations portray the immense

determination Chisato musters to accomplish the task, by illuminating the challenges boldly in yellow while using muted tones for the rest of the illustrations. For children of all abilities, this picture book opens up

discussion on how to signal for help when needed and how others need to stand back, or ask first before helping, when achieving a goal independently is more important.



Uri-aireul-sogaehamnida: Dangsini-eonjedeun-mannal-su inneun-teukbyeolhan-aideul iyagi (cat. no. 32)

- 31** Panteleakos, Nicole (text)
Planet Earth Is Blue
 New York, USA: Wendy Lamb Books, 2019
 [233pp.] ISBN 978-0-525-64657-0

1986, New Hampshire and twelve-year-old non-verbal Nova is in yet another foster home, but this time without her protective and caring older sister, Bridget. Both share a fascination with space travel, and the novel is set during the 10 days before the Challenger space shuttle launch with a New Hampshire teacher aboard. Bridget had promised to be back in time to watch the launch with Nova, but as the days count down, Bridget is still missing. On the day of the launch, Nova is able to relate the disaster of the shuttle with the disaster that has entered her own life.

Nova may be non-verbal, but her sister has taught her to read and write. Her unique personality is conveyed to the reader through letters scribbled to Bridget and the first-person narrative. Nova's autism is accurately portrayed with the traits of OCD, stimming, sensory issues and overactive imagination woven seamlessly into her character. This

outstanding novel, which has so successfully painted a character without conversation, demonstrates there are many ways to communicate. Parents and teachers seeking books for middle school students to build empathy will find this gripping read an excellent choice.

- 32** Park, Jungkyung, et al., (text and ill.)
 Jejuchild-SpecialChild
 (compiler)
Uri-aireul-sogaehamnida: Dangsini-eonjedeun-mannal-su inneun-teukbyeolhan-aideul iyagi
(Let me introduce my special child: Stories of children with developmental disabilities)
 Seoul, Republic of Korea: Spring Garden, 2019 [132pp.]
 ISBN 979-11-87154-91-4 77810

Motherhood at the best of times is demanding but having a child with

developmental disabilities creates an entirely different set of challenges. Additionally, each family must deal with misunderstandings, prejudice and hurtful comments from outside of their immediate family. This book, which is written and illustrated by 11 mothers (and their children), attempts to bridge this gap of understanding and engage the world in the unique yet rewarding experience of raising a child with special needs. Each story is distinctive, and the creative approaches taken by individual families might surprise you by how relatable they are.

Lightened by the imaginative and colourful illustrations from these families, this book is important on several levels. It offers an insight into the dynamics of raising a child with additional needs, but is also an important resource for parents and siblings just beginning their journey. Additionally, it gives voice and permission to other

families who have already embarked on this journey to speak forcibly on behalf of their child and seek support within the community while also honouring all that their child has to contribute to society. It is an honest book that will resonate with many readers.

- 33** Pere, Tuula (text) Flores, Catty (ill.)
Tervetuloa kotiin, Helmi
(Welcome home, Pearl)
 Helsinki, Finland: Wickwick Oy, 2019
 [25pp.] ISBN 978-952-325-417-6

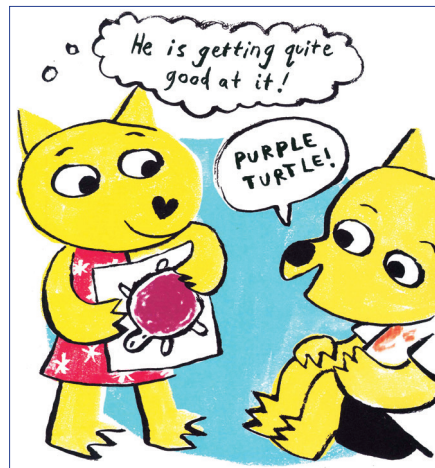
In a series of three picture books about siblings Jacob and Pearl, *Tervetuloa kotiin, Helmi* is the first. The family is eagerly awaiting the birth of their second child, but Jacob senses that something is not right. Finally, the parents share with Jacob that there are concerns for the health of the baby. Jacob copes with the news by singing to the baby. Once Pearl is born, it is clear

that she has a serious disability. When she is strong enough, Pearl comes home and the family finds out that she is soothed by Jacob's singing to her. The second and third books chronicle Pearl's short life and finally her death.

This series of books is an important resource for families and can be extremely beneficial in starting the difficult yet important conversations about their own family reality with the young siblings in the household. By sharing the relevant portion of these books, siblings will be given permission to ask questions and more importantly, to love their brother or sister unconditionally. Ultimately, this series of books is a celebration of life, however brief it may be.



Talking Is Not My Thing! (cat. no. 34)



Talking Is Not My Thing! (cat. no. 34)

- 34** Robbins, Rose (text and ill.)
Talking Is Not My Thing!
 London, UK:
 Scallywag Press Ltd, 2020
 [32pp.] ISBN 978-1-912650-22-4

In this picture book, along with its companion book, *Me and My Sister*, we meet a brother and sister who have different ways of communicating.

Each has a strong understanding of the other and they navigate the world together, reading, playing games, looking for lost toys, all the while respecting their differences. Thought bubbles are used to share how the sister, the non-verbal narrator, experiences life. The brother appreciates that his sister is uncomfortable with hugs, and they exchange high-fives instead.

The author of these outstanding stories grew up with an autistic sibling who needed a great deal of care, and the inclusive approach shown in the books is guided by her experiences. The simple animal characters, illustrated with bold colours and black outlines, will appeal to children. Both of these books are much needed by preschoolers today. They would be useful to share with children needing to talk about siblings or friends who have autism or learning differences.

- 35** Ross, Mikael (text and ill.)
Der Umfall (*The stroke*)
 Berlin, Germany: avant-verlag,
 2018 [128pp.]
 ISBN 978-3-945034-94-1

Noel's life is suddenly uprooted when his mother has a stroke. As a teen with Down syndrome, he is unable to live on his own and is taken to Neuerkerode in Niedersachsen, a real-life institution built as a village for people with cognitive disabilities and their caregivers. Noel adapts by taking part in new activities, making friends and developing a crush on a young woman.

The Evangelical Foundation Neuerkerode commissioned Mikael Ross to write a history of the village for its 150th anniversary. His characters, though fictional, are based on people he met during the two years he spent there. Ross chose the graphic novel format so that readers can learn about life in



Der Umfall (cat. no. 35)

the village through the conversations, expressions and thoughts of its residents. One resident, a recurring character named Irma, tells Noel her personal history at Neuerkerode. She lived there with her brother during the time of the Third Reich when the Nazis would remove residents from the village to be euthanized.

This ground-breaking work is an outstanding example of storytelling. It portrays a community of people whose story is seldom told and successfully smashes stereotypes with its fast-paced narrative and compelling, relatable characters. The graphic novel format makes it an accessible read for many young adults with developmental or intellectual disabilities, but it is also excellent for all of us.

- 36** Schimel, Lawrence (text)
 Mayorga, Juan Camilo (ill.)
¡Qué suerte tengo!
(How lucky I am!)
 Bogotá, Colombia:
 Rey Naranjo Editores,
 2018
 [32pp.] ISBN 978-958-56225-1-7

In this picture book we meet Jose, his brother and his brother's friend Carlos. Jose's brother, the narrator, marvels at Jose's ability to navigate the

world through memory, without the aid of sight, and is in awe of Jose's abilities and bravery. He also considers Jose to be incredibly lucky. Jose has a dog all his own and can stay up late at night reading in Braille without their parents knowing. While playing at Carlos' house, the narrator can be messy, but keeping the house neat is a small price to pay for giving Jose a safe home to navigate.

Children will eagerly snatch up the book, relating to the font used, the soft child-like drawings and the toys that are reminiscent of a boy's bedroom. When Jose is reading in bed, there are two pages of Braille for sighted readers to experience. Sharing this story aloud at home, or reading it in a classroom with children of varying abilities, can help to bring into sharp focus the talents that everyone has, rather than the deficits.

- 37** Senoussi, Samir (text) Franc, Alexandre (ill.)
L'incroyable destin de Stephen Hawking qui perça les mystères de l'Univers
(The unbelievable destiny of Stephen Hawking who unraveled the mysteries of the universe)
 Montrouge, France: Bayard jeunesse, 2019
 [45pp.] ISBN 979-10-0363-1037-9

The story of Stephen Hawking comes to life in this illustrated biography. Stephen was born on January 8, 1942, during World War II and 300 years to the day after Galileo's death. His father dreamed Stephen might follow in his own footsteps to become a doctor rather than choose to be a mathematician or physicist. Despite the diagnosis in 1963 of Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a degenerative disease with progressive physical limitations, Stephen would show his father that he could succeed



L'incroyable destin de Stephen Hawking qui perça les mystères de l'Univers (cat. no. 37)

at both, becoming a leading figure and author in unravelling theories about the creation of the universe. The exuberant illustrations reveal Stephen's love of living and portray him in action, running through the

streets to school, scrambling up the stairs, and later in life, speeding through the university campus in his wheelchair. Information sidebars throughout the book provide context and simplify scientific theories. The use of a graphic novel format with plenty of dialogue makes this a very accessible way for young readers to learn about one of the leading scientific theorists of our time.

- 38** Sunar, Özge Bahar (text) Altun, Uğur (ill.)
Yamur Adam ve En Güzel Dans
(Dancing with the rain)
 Istanbul, Turkey: Redhouse Kidz, SEV, 2019
 [32pp.] ISBN 978-605-2079-53-9

Beginning on a bright, sunny day, this modern fairy tale depicts an idyllic scene of townspeople outside enjoying the fine weather. Their enjoyment ends when rain begins to fall. The Rain



No quiero que Jose se haga daño, así que cuando viene Carlos de visita no podemos jugar a las canicas ni montar campañas militares en la sala. Solemos ver una película o jugar con la PlayStation.

¡Qué suerte tengo! (cat. no. 36)

appears as a person and is upset that the townspeople do not like his spectacular storm. He is convinced that they would be happier without his presence and vows never to bring the storms again. Thus the days become endlessly sunny until finally a young girl approaches Rain, enquiring about the next rainfall. She explains that she is deaf and, although her ears may not be able to hear music, her feet can feel the rhythm of the raindrops. Reminded once again of his value, Rain grants the girl her wish. When the rain comes, the girl dances, and the townspeople rejoice.

This book is an excellent introduction to the many ways that people with hearing loss experience sound. It can lead into explorations of rhythm and vibration, as well as rich discussions of how to respectfully interact with individuals who are D/deaf or have hearing loss. Children will also enjoy

peeking at the activities of the townspeople scattered among the stylized patterns of grasses, trees and raindrops.

39 Wheeler, Samantha (text)
Everything I've Never Said
 St Lucia, Australia: University of Queensland Press,
 2018
 [224pp.] ISBN 978-0-7022-6027-8

Born with Rett syndrome, Ava struggles to communicate with those around her. Her condition does not impact her cognitive abilities but she is unable to share her thoughts and feelings in conventional ways. Through a first-person narrative, her personality, sarcastic replies and humour are revealed to the reader. Her older sister Nic is embarrassed by her disruptive noises and uncontrollable movements, and Ava feels shame as a result. When her father is hospitalized

due to a stroke, the dynamic of Ava's family changes. Outside help from an occupational therapist and a respite home open up new opportunities for Ava.

From her experience raising a daughter with Rett syndrome, author Samantha Wheeler offers insights, both difficult and hopeful, into the experiences of people like Ava. Wheeler's realistic fiction effectively depicts complex family relationships, the uphill battle against systemic barriers for support, and the importance of access to assistive technology. Readers are introduced to the eye gaze technology that allows Ava to communicate more effectively and develop a sense of independence. While 9-12-year-old readers may not know anyone with a disability, they will relate to Ava's strong personality, drive to communicate, and the feeling of not being understood.

40 Yin, Jianling (text)
Xiang Jiao Gu
(The elephant-foot drum)
 Beijing, China:
 Daylight Publishing House,
 2020
 [200pp.] ISBN 978-7-5016-1603-9

Dongyin is moved to unparalleled joy the first time she feels musical vibrations through the floor with her feet. When her rhythm teacher, at the school for the deaf, plays the piano and simultaneously bangs the big drum with a pedal, Dongyin realizes that although music can be heard with ears, it can also be felt with body and heart. From there, she begins to dance.

This fictionalized account of the childhood of Tai Lihua, a famous Chinese dancer who is deaf, portrays the emotions of a child growing up deaf in a hearing world. The first-person narrative is poetic yet factual: the



Yağmur Adam ve En Güzel Dans (cat. no. 38)

author interviewed the dancer, the people in her village, and in schools for the deaf, to present a character who is independent and positive, someone to be supported rather than someone to be pitied.

Dancer Tai Lihua has said, "Disability is not deficiency. As the saying goes, the moon may be crescent or full, but one is as beautiful as the other."

2021 Publisher's List

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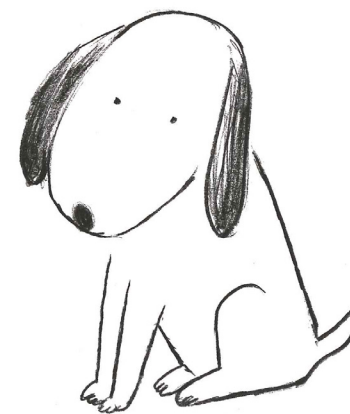
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