

Books Depicting Differing Abilities
Akron-Summit County Public Library

Picture books:

Best, Carl. **My Three Best Friends and Me, Zulay**, 2015. JE

Zulay is a blind girl who longs to be able to run in the race on field and track day at her school.

Cotterill, Samantha. **This Beach is Loud!**, 2019. JE

A sensitive boy gets overwhelmed by all the sights, sounds, and sensations at the beach, but his dad has a trick to help his son face these unexpected obstacles.

Gianferrari, Maria. **Hello Goodbye Dog**, 2017. JE

A student who uses a wheelchair finds a way to see her dog each day in school.

Kimmelman, Leslie. **We're Amazing, 1, 2, 3!**, 2017. JES

This story stars Elmo, Abby, and their friend Julia, who has autism. Together, the three pals have a delightful playdate.

Millman, Isaac. **Moses Goes to School**, 2000. JE

Moses and his friends enjoy the first day of school at their special school for the deaf and hard of hearing, where they use sign language to talk to each other.

Peete, Holly Robinson. **My Brother Charlie**, 2010. JE

A girl tells what it is like living with her twin brother who has autism and sometimes finds it hard to communicate with words, but who, in most ways, is just like any other boy. Includes authors' note about autism.

Sotomayor, Sonia. **Just Ask: Be Different, Be Brave, Be You**, 2019. JE, eBook

Sonia and her friends plant a garden, and each one contributes in his or her own special way, in a book that celebrates the many differences among humans. In this warm and inclusive story by U.S. Supreme Justice Sonia Sotomayor, inspired by her own childhood diagnosis of diabetes, readers join along as differently abled kids use their strengths to work together and learn about each other.

Non-fiction and Biographies:

Burnell, Carrie. **I am Not a Label: 34 Disabled Artists, Thinkers, Athletes and Activists From Past and Present**, 2020. JNF 920.0087 B963i

This book brings together 34 disabled artists, find out how these iconic figures have overcome obstacles, owned their differences and paved the way for others by making their bodies and minds work for them. These short biographies tell the stories of people who have faced unique challenges which have not stopped them from becoming trailblazers, innovators, advocates and makers. Each person is a leading figure in their field, be it sport, science, math, art, breakdance or the world of pop. Challenge your preconceptions of disability and mental health with the eye-opening stories of these remarkable people.

Clinton, Chelsea. **She Persisted in Sports: American Olympians Who Changed the Game**, 2020. JNF 796.0925 C641s, eBook

A book for everyone who has ever aimed for a goal and been told it wasn't theirs to hit, for everyone

who has ever raced for a finish line that seemed all too far away, and for everyone who has ever felt small or unimportant while out on the field.

Kensky, Jessica. **Rescue and Jessica: A Life-Changing Friendship**, 2018. JNF 636.7 K36r

When he is paired with a girl who has lost her legs, Rescue worries that he isn't up to the task of being her service dog.

Bryant, Jen. **Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille**, 2016. JBIO, eBook

Louis Braille was just five years old when he lost his sight. He was a clever boy, determined to live like everyone else, and what he wanted more than anything was to be able to read. Even at the school for the blind in Paris, there were no books for him. And so he invented his own alphabet -- a whole new system for writing that could be read by touch. A system so ingenious that it is still used by the blind community today.

Mosca, Julia Finley. **The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin**, 2017. JBIO

Describes the life and accomplishments of the animal scientist and designer of cruelty-free livestock facilities, from her early life and autism diagnosis through her journey to become a livestock expert.

Pimentel, Annette Bay. **All the Way to the Top**, 2020. JBIO

When Jennifer Keelan, who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at birth, discovered the world of disability rights activism, she knew she had to use her voice to change things. When Jennifer was just eight years old, she participated in the Capitol Crawl. The deeply affecting image of Jennifer crawling up the steps of Capitol Hill went viral and helped pressure Congress into passing the Americans with Disabilities Act. A powerfully illustrated biography of Jennifer's life and a celebration of youth activism, *All the Way to the Top* will teach all children that they have the power to make a difference.

Thompson, Laurie Ann. **Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofosu Yeboah**, 2015. JBIO

Born in Ghana with one deformed leg, Emmanuel hopped to school more than two miles each way, learned to play soccer, left home at age thirteen to provide for his family, and eventually, became a cyclist. He rode an astonishing four hundred miles across Ghana in 2001, spreading his powerful message- disability is not inability. Today, Emmanuel continues to work on behalf of the disabled.

Graphic Novels and Fiction:

Bell, Cece. **El Deafo**, 2014. JGN

Author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful--and very awkward--hearing aid. The Phonic Ear gives Cece the ability to hear--sometimes things she shouldn't--but also isolates her from her classmates. She really just wants to fit in and find a true friend, someone who appreciates her as she is. After some trouble, she is finally able to harness the power of the Phonic Ear and become "El Deafo, Listener for All." And more importantly, declare a place for herself in the world and find the friend she's longed for.

Sumner, Jamie. **Roll With It**, 2019. JFIC

Twelve-year-old Ellie, who has cerebral palsy, finds her life transformed when she moves with her mother to small-town Oklahoma to help care for her grandfather, who has Alzheimer's Disease.