

Middle grade and young adult books about kids with disabilities

Collected by Heather M. O'Connor, author of *Fast Friends*

Title	Author	Illustrator	Level	Publisher	Year	Exceptionality	Blurb
<i>The Someday Birds</i>	Sally J Pla	Julie McLaughlin	MG	Harper Collins	2017	autism	Equal parts madcap road trip, coming-of-age story for an autistic boy who feels he doesn't understand the world, and uplifting portrait of a family overcoming a crisis.
<i>Stanley Will Probably Be Fine</i>	Sally J Pla	Steve Wolfhard	MG	Harper Collins	2018	anxiety and sensory issues	This funny and moving novel features comic trivia, a safety superhero, and a super-cool scavenger hunt all over downtown San Diego, as young hero Stanley Fortinbras grapples with his anxiety and learns what, exactly, it means to be brave.
<i>West Meadows Detectives series</i>	Liam O'Donnell		MG	OwlKids	2018	Canadian, autism	Myron's unique perspective from the autism spectrum and his eye for detail make him a top-notch sleuth. Similarly, the other neurodiverse kids in his resource room have unique talents that come in handy.
<i>We Could Be Heroes</i>	Margaret Finnegan		MG	Simon and Schuster	2020	autism	A 10-year-old finds himself in a whole mess of trouble when his new friend Maisie recruits him to save the dog next door.
<i>Rain Reign</i>	Ann M. Martin		MG	Square Fish Macmillan	2018	autism	Not everyone understands Rose's obsessions, her rules, and the other things that make her different -- not her teachers, not other kids, and not her single father.
<i>Chester and Gus</i>	Cammie McGovern		MG	Harper Collins	2018	autism	A heartwarming and humorous MG novel about the remarkable bond that forms between an aspiring service dog and an autistic boy in need of a friend
<i>Fish in a Tree</i>	Lynda Mullaly Hunt		MG	Puffin	2017	dyslexia	Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker.
<i>I Funny Series</i>	James Patterson, Chris Grabenstein	Laura Park	MG	Jimmy Patterson	2012 - 2018	protagonist uses wheelchair	Middle schooler Jamie Grimm has big dreams of being the best stand-up comic in the world – and he won't let the fact that he's in a wheelchair get in his way.

I love doing events and in-person or virtual school visits.

Contact me at heather@heathermoconnor.com.

Middle grade and young adult books about kids with disabilities

Collected by Heather M. O'Connor, author of *Fast Friends*

Title	Author	Illustrator	Level	Publisher	Year	Exceptionality	Blurb
<i>Just My Luck</i>	Cammie McGovern		MG	Harper Collins	2016	ADHD	Fourth grade is not going at all how Benny Barrows hoped. He hasn't found a new best friend. He's still not a great bike rider—even though his brother George, who's autistic, can do tricks. And worst of all, he worries his dad's recent accident might be all his fault.
<i>Joey Pigza series</i>	Jack Gantos		MG	Square Fish Macmillian	2014 - 2015	ADHD	Joey Pigza is a good kid trapped in a wired body. He learns the hard way that he shouldn't stick his finger in the pencil sharpener, or swallow his house key, or run with scissors.
<i>The War That Saved My Life</i>	Kimberly Brubaker Bradley		MG	Dial Books	2015	physical disability	Ten-year-old Ada has never left her one-room apartment. Her mother is too humiliated by Ada's twisted foot to let her outside. So when her little brother Jamie is shipped out of London to escape the war, Ada doesn't waste a minute—she sneaks out to join him.
<i>Wonder</i>	R.J. Palacio		MG	Alfred A. Knopf	2012	facial deformity	August Pullman was born with a facial difference 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.
<i>Ugly</i>	Robert Hoge		MG	Hachette	2013	memoir, facial deformity	Robert Hoge was born with a giant tumour on his forehead, severely distorted facial features and legs that were twisted and useless. His mother refused to look at her son, let alone bring him home. But home he went, to a life that, against the odds, was filled with joy, optimism and boyhood naughtiness.
<i>Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus</i>	Dusti Bowling		MG	Sterling Children's Books	2017	protagonist has birth defect - no arms	Aven Green loves to tell people that she lost her arms in an alligator wrestling match, or a wildfire in Tanzania, but the truth is she was born without them.
<i>Livvie Owen Lived Here</i>	Sarah Dooley		MG	Feiwel & Friends	2010	autism	Olivia "Livvie" Owen feels things differently than her parents and two sisters. Livvie is autistic. Her family has had to move repeatedly because of her outbursts. When they again face eviction, Livvie is convinced she has a way to get back to a house where they were all happy, once.

I love doing events and in-person or virtual school visits.

Contact me at heather@heathermoconnor.com.

Middle grade and young adult books about kids with disabilities

Collected by Heather M. O'Connor, author of *Fast Friends*

Title	Author	Illustrator	Level	Publisher	Year	Exceptionality	Blurb
<i>Anything But Typical</i>	Nora Raleigh Baskin		MG	Simon Schuster	2009	autism	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.
<i>Rules</i>	Cynthia Lord		MG	Scholastic Press	2006	autism	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. But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a paraplegic boy, 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?
<i>Song for a Whale</i>	Lynne Kelly		MG	Delacorte	2019	deafness	The story of a deaf girl's connection to a whale whose song can't be heard by his species, and the journey she takes to help him.
<i>Out of my Mind</i>	Sharon M. Draper		MG	Atheneum Books	2010	cerebral palsy	Melody cannot walk or talk, but she has a photographic memory. She is smarter than most of the adults who try to diagnose her and smarter than her classmates in her integrated classroom - the very same classmates who dismiss her as mentally challenged because she cannot tell them otherwise. But Melody refuses to be defined by cerebral palsy. And she's determined to let everyone know it - somehow.
<i>Show Me a Sign</i>	Ann Clare LeZotte		MG	Scholastic Press	2020	deafness	Deaf author and librarian Ann Clare LeZotte weaves an Own Voices story inspired by the true history of a thriving deaf community on Martha's Vineyard in the early 19th century.
<i>Marcus Vega Doesn't Speak Spanish</i>	Pablo Cartaya		MG	Viking Books	2018	Down syndrome	After a school fight leaves Marcus facing suspension, his mom decides it's time for a change. She takes Marcus and his younger brother who has Down Syndrome to visit distant relatives in Puerto Rico. But Marcus can't focus knowing that his father-- who walked out their lives ten years ago--is somewhere on the island.

I love doing events and in-person or virtual school visits.

Contact me at heather@heathermoconnor.com.

Middle grade and young adult books about kids with disabilities

Collected by Heather M. O'Connor, author of *Fast Friends*

Title	Author	Illustrator	Level	Publisher	Year	Exceptionality	Blurb
<i>Al Capone Does My Shirts (series)</i>	Gennifer Choldenko		YA	Puffin Books	2006 -	autism	Moose's family moves to Alcatraz where his dad has taken a job as an electrician. His sister has autism and the family is trying to get her into a special school.
<i>One-2-One series</i>	Lorna Schultz Nicholson		YA	Clockwise Press	2015 -	Canadian, various	Each One-2-One novel tells the story of a different pair of teens participating in the Best Buddies program at Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School.
<i>What Happened to Ivy?</i>	Kathy Stinson		YA	Second Story Press	2011	Canadian, multiple disabilities	David's younger sister Ivy may be eleven years old, but in many ways she's still a baby. She embarrasses him in public. But despite it all, he loves her. When Ivy has an accident, David is forced to confront his own feelings of guilt, the meaning of mercy, and what can be forgiven.

I love doing events and in-person or virtual school visits.

Contact me at heather@heathermoconnor.com.