

Looking for more information for your kids?

Reading Material – Students K-3

The Black Book of Colors By: Cottin Menena

A simulation that allows children to feel colors through their other senses.

Ruby Lu: Empress of Everything By: Lenore Look

Second in a series of early chapter books, dealing with Ruby Lu's developing relationship with her deaf cousin from China, as well as typical second grade concerns.

The Printer By: Myron Uhlberg

A memoir of Uhlberg's deaf father's heroism, and his struggles working with hearing colleagues as a printer.

Author: A True Story By: Helen Lester

A book about her own writing process, which deals in an age appropriate way with learning disabilities and with writer's block.

Reading Material – Students in Intermediate Grades

Anything But Typical By: Nora Raleigh Baskin

Jason was diagnosed with autism in 3rd grade. Though he struggles with understanding his classmates, he is an excellent creative writer and has many academic gifts. Read this book to learn how complex the idea of disability is, and what kinds of strengths and talents may grow from disabilities or different ways of understanding. (Grades 4-8)

Tangerine By: Edward Bloor

Paul and his family move to a new town, and Paul tries out for, and makes the soccer team. However, he is disqualified from playing because he is legally blind. When his school is swallowed by a sinkhole (really) Paul finds a place on the soccer team in his new middle school. Readers will learn how Paul's vision is clearer than the rest of his family. (Grades 6-8)

Al Capone Does My Shirts By: Gennifer Choldenko

In this historical fiction novel, 12 year old Moose Flanagan moves with his family to Alcatraz, where his father takes a job as the prison's electrician, in hopes that Moose's older sister Natalie can attend a special school for students with autism. Learn about Natalie's form of autism, and how it affects Moose and his friendships with the other kids on the island, at school, and even with the prisoners. If you like this book, look for the sequel, *Al Capone Shines My Shoes* to learn more about Moose and his family. (Grades 4-8)

Things Not Seen; Things That Are By: Andrew Clements

These two novels in a 3 part series deal with a teenage boy Bobby who wakes up invisible one day. He befriends a blind teenage girl Alicia who understands his secret, and together they work to solve the mystery of his invisibility in the first book in the series (*Things Not Seen*); the third

book (*Things That Are*) continues this plot line as Bobby goes looking at colleges, and a mysterious invisible stranger shows up. (Grades 4-8)

Granny Torelli Makes Soup By: Sharon Creech

Twelve year old Rosie and her next door neighbor Bailey have always been close friends, and Rosie has always been Bailey's helper since he is legally blind. But their friendship has been threatened by changes as they are growing up, and trying to understand one another. Can they resolve their differences as they work together in the kitchen, making soup with Rosie's Granny Torelli? (Grades 3-8)

The London Eye Mystery By: Siobhan Dowd

Ted, Kat, and their cousin Salim are waiting in line to ride the London Eye, an amazing observation wheel that allows you to see all over London. Salim is offered a free ticket, and disappears. Ted must use the special academic skills he has due to Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism, while overcoming his challenges, in order to help solve the mystery and find his cousin. This book helps you to understand that sometimes disabilities also create special talents and gifts. (Grades 5-8)

Flight By: Elizabeth Stow Ellison

Twelve-year-old Samantha worries about her older brother, a high school freshman, who seems unable to control his behavior and meet the expectations for school. Then Evan confides his secret: he can't read, and their parents have not responded to school requests that he be tested for learning disabilities. Read to find out what Evan's real talents are, and the family secret that has kept his parents from seeking help for him.

Flying Solo By: Ralph Fletcher

Imagine a day in school without your teacher. This is what happens to the 6th grade class in Ralph Fletcher's novel. In this novel, a young girl copes with the loss of a classmate through elective mutism (she never speaks). Over the course of the day, the students learn a lot about each other, and finally grieve over their lost classmate. (Grades 4-8)

Out of Darkness: The Story of Louis Braille By: Russell Freedman

This non-fiction book tells the true story of Louis Braille. Blinded in a tragic accident at the age of 3, this book relates Louis's struggles and he grows, as well as his tremendous accomplishment: designing Braille, a language which blind people still use to read today. An amazing story of courage and perseverance. (Grades 4-8)

Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key By Jack Gantos

This fiction book tells the story of Joey Pigza, who has a lot of problems at school and at home. He has trouble paying attention in class, and gets into trouble at school because of it. He leaves his school for a special education program, meets a caring teacher, and learns how to help himself and to let teachers and medications help him. If you like this book, there are three more in the series. (Grades 4-8)

The Thing About Georgie By: Lisa Graff

What do you know about growing up with Dwarfism? This book will tell you the ways in which Georgie is different from you, and also the many ways he is just like you. It is a great story about the kinds of friendships and school experiences that all 4th graders have. (Grades 4-8)

The Million Dollar Putt By: Dan Gutman

One in a series of Dan Gutman's "Million Dollar" books, this is the story of Bogie, a blind teenager, and his neighbor Birdie, an unusual girl who also happens to have asthma. Will their friendship and collaboration be enough to make Bogie a golf champion? (Grades 4-8)

Just Juice By: Karen Hesse

Growing up in a very poor part of Appalachia, Juice is used to making the best of situations. She loves to play and explore, to learn, and to help out in her family. But one thing she can't understand and conquer is letters and reading. In this story, you learn about life in a very different part of our country, and also about learning challenges or disabilities.

Sand Dollar Summer By: Kimberly Jones

12-year-old Lise and her 5-year-old brother Free move to Maine for the summer after their single mother has been injured in a car accident. Learn about the ways Lise's mother works to recover from injury and how Lise deals with their move to the ocean. Lise's brother is mute; will he ever speak?

Small Steps: The Year I Got Polio By: Peg Kehret

When Peg Kehret was 12 years old, she got sick with polio. Luckily, she survived, and wrote this memoir of her experience. She talks about her life before the illness, how she felt while ill, and the steps she took to get better. There is even an update about her life right now. This book was voted top book in 2009 Battle of the Books!

T4: A Novel in Verse. By: Anne Clare LeZotte

This unique novel is written in free verse poetry from the perspective of Paula, a deaf girl growing up under Hitler's rule during World War II. Declared unfit to live, all people with mental illness and disabilities are being rounded up to be killed, and Paula tells the story of her escape and her struggle to survive. Notes at the end provide more information on this part of World War II history. (Grades 5-8)

Rules By: Cynthia Lord

Twelve year old Catherine just wants to be a regular kid with a regular life, which impossible to do with her autistic younger brother David around. David doesn't understand any of the rules of how to behave, so Catherine creates rules for him to try and explain. When Catherine makes a new friend who is her age, but in a wheelchair and able to communicate using pictures only, she has to confront her ideas about what normal is, and who worrying about being normal hurts the most. (Grades 5-8)

My Heart Glow: Alice Cogswell, Thomas Gallaudet, and the Birth of American Sign Language
By: Emily Arnold McCully

Learn the history of American Sign Language in this true story. Alice Cogswell becomes deaf after being ill with scarlet fever, and this book tells the story of her father asking her neighbor,

Thomas Gallaudet, to help her learn to communicate. Gallaudet researches deaf communication, teaches Alice to read, write, and communicate, and ultimately establishes the American School for the Deaf. Learn about history through this young girl's perspective. (Grades 2-5)

Miss Spitfire: Reaching Helen Keller By: Sarah Miller

A historical novel set during the time that Annie Sullivan, a blind tutor, came to Alabama to work with Helen Keller. Learn how Annie tried to teach language to Helen, who had become deaf, blind, and mute, and was being babied by her family. This novel is fiction, but based in history, and the author does a great job helping you feel Annie's pain and confusion in working with Helen.

Becoming Naomi Leon By: Pam Munoz Ryan

Naomi is living a happy quiet life with her Grandma and her brother Owen, who has a physical disability. Her mom and a new boyfriend come to visit, and want to take Naomi back to live with them. Naomi, her Grandma and Owen travel to find the children's father, and learn about their Mexican heritage along the way.

A Small White Scar By: K.A. Nuzum

Ever wonder what it would be like to grow up as a twin, with a disabled brother? This is the life 15 year old Will leads. He is responsible for his brother, but plans an escape to live a life of adventure at the rodeo with his father. To Will's surprise, his brother follows him. Read to see whether they make it to the rodeo and which brother is the most persistent and tenacious. (Grades 5-8)

Sahara Special By: Esme Raji Codell

Forced to see the Special Ed Teacher, and then to repeat 5th grade, Sahara Jones has a secret – she's a writer. With the help of an understanding teacher, Sahara learns to use her secret and move her education and her life forward.

Small Steps By: Louis Sachar

This book is a sequel to *Holes*, and focuses on Armpit, a character who has returned home from a juvenile detention center and is working hard to rebuild his life. Learn about the struggles he faces, as well as what he learns from his young neighbor with cerebral palsy. (Grades 5-8)

So B. It By: Sarah Weeks

Heidi has lived with her Mama and Bernadette since she was a tiny baby. Mama has mental challenges, and is not able to care for Heidi, so Bernadette has raised her. But Bernadette has agoraphobia, fear of leaving her house, so Heidi is often out on her own to do the shopping and care for the household. At age 12, Heidi is curious: Where does she come from? Who is her Dad? She sets out on a trip to find answers to these questions.

Feathers By: Jacqueline Woodson

Sixth grader Frannie copes with the new school year, and the entry of a new white boy into her all-African American classroom, as well as her continuing worries for her deaf older brother. A Newberry Honor Book, from a favorite author! (Grades 4-8)