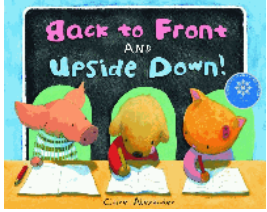


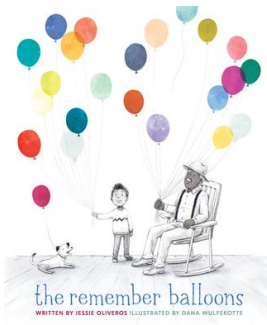

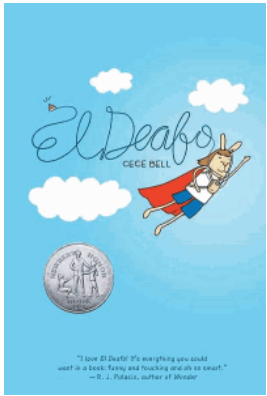
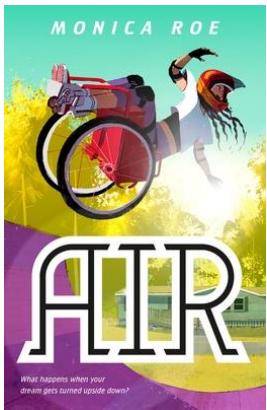


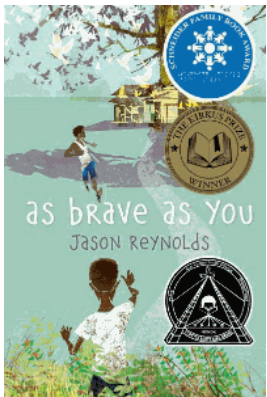



# Neurodiversity and Differently Abled

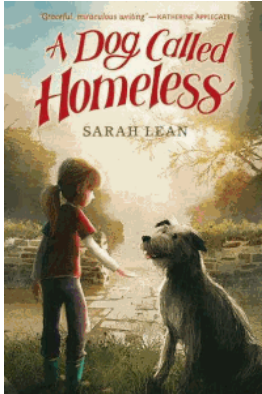

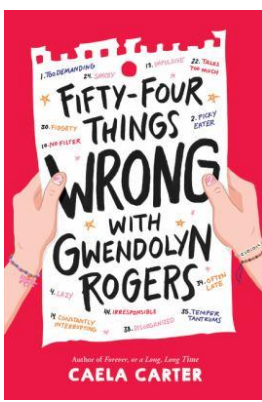
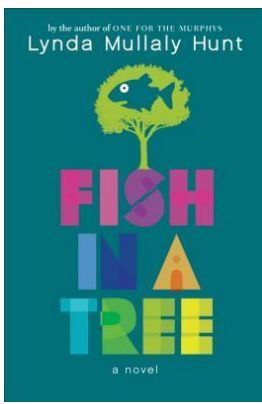
## Inclusive Book Recommendations 2025

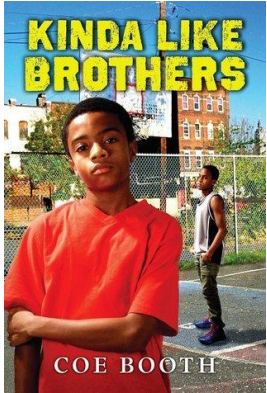
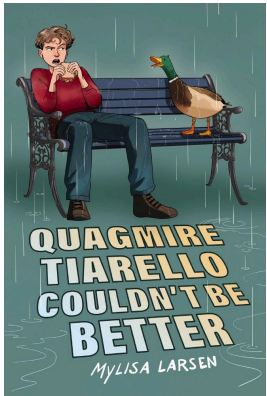
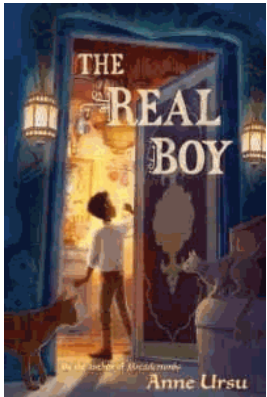
Drawn from expertly curated lists, these books about individuals living with neurodiversity and differing abilities are available at the Sato Elementary Library

	Title	Author	Interest Level	Summary
<b>Picture Books</b>				
	<i>Back to Front and Upside Down!</i>	Claire Alexander	K-3	While the rest of the class makes birthday cards for the principal, Stanley struggles with his words and letters.
	<i>A Day with No Words</i>	Tiffany Hammond	K-3	Young children will learn what life can look like for an autistic child who uses nonverbal communication by following a mother and child on a day where they use a tablet to communicate with others.
	<i>A Friend for Henry</i> 	Jenn Bailey; illustrated by Mika Song		Henry would like to find a friend at school, but for a boy on the autism spectrum, making friends can be difficult, as his efforts are sometimes misinterpreted, or things just go wrong--but Henry keeps trying, and in the end he finds a friend he can play with.
	<i>Just Ask! Be Different, Be Brave, Be You</i> 	Sonia Sotomayor; illustrated by Rafael Lopez	K-3	U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor presents a story inspired by her own childhood diagnosis of diabetes. A young Sonia and her friends decide to plant a garden and each child contributes something even though he or she has asthma, a wheelchair, a



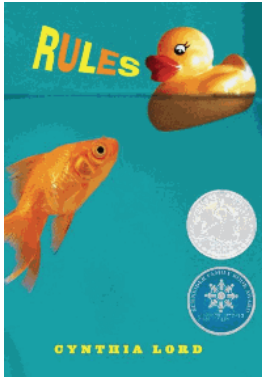


				stutter, blindness, deafness, allergies, Down syndrome, or ADHD.
	<i>The Remember Balloons</i> 	Jessie Oliveros; illustrated by Dana Wulfekotte	K-3	James's Grandpa has the best balloons because he has the best memories. He has balloons showing Dad when he was young and Grandma when they were married. But when Grandpa's balloons begin to float away, James is heartbroken. No matter how hard he runs, James can't catch them.
<b>Graphic and Illustrated Novels</b>				
	<i>El Deafo</i>	<i>Cece Bell</i>	3-6	A graphic novel memoir of author/illustrator Cece Bell who grew up hearing impaired.
<b>Chapter Books</b>				
	<i>Air</i>	Monica Roe	5-8	Twelve-and-a-half year old Emelyn Ethrige lives with her father in South Carolina, dreams of wheelchair motocross, and makes custom chair bags trying to earn enough money to buy a serious set of wheels; she has been in a wheelchair all her life, and is just fine getting around without help, but it seems that since her mother was killed in an accident everyone (father, grandparents, teachers, and

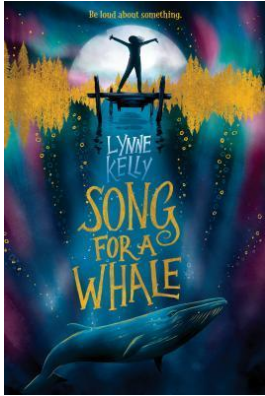


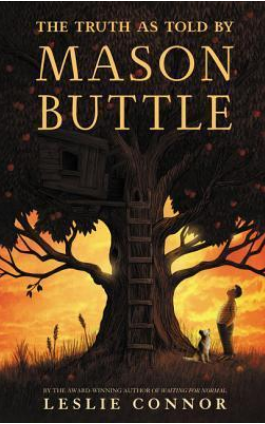

				classmates) have started treating her differently.
	<i>As Brave As You</i>	Jason Reynolds	5-8	Genie's summer is full of surprises. The first is that he and his big brother, Ernie, are leaving Brooklyn for the very first time to spend the summer with their grandparents all the way in Virginia. The second surprise comes when Genie figures out that their grandfather is blind.
	<i>A Boy Called Bat</i>	Elana K. Arnold	3-6	One of the few books for any age that seeks to accurately, sensitively, and convincingly portray a character on the autism spectrum, this book centers the child's experience in the narrative.
	<i>The Collectors</i> 	Jacqueline West	5-8	Van has always been an outsider. Most people don't notice him. But he notices them. And he notices the small trinkets they drop, or lose, or throw away—that's why his collection is full of treasures. Then one day, Van notices a girl stealing pennies from a fountain, and everything changes. He follows the girl, Pebble, and uncovers an underground world full of wishes and the people who collect them.

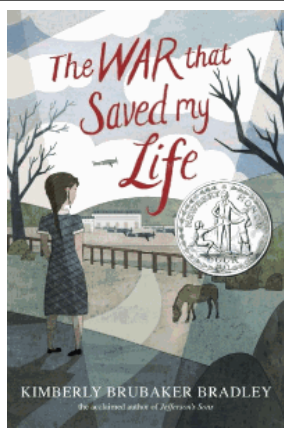
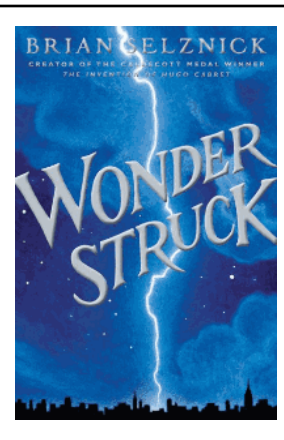
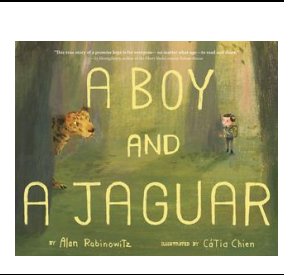
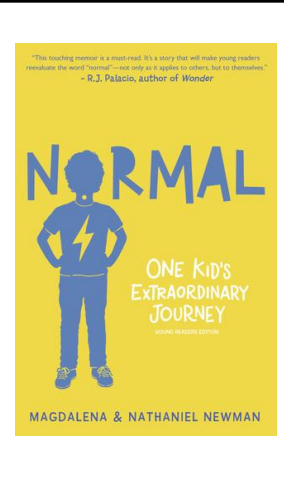
	<i>A Dog Called Homeless</i>	Sarah Lean	3-6	Fifth-grader Cally Louise Fisher stops talking, partly because her father and brother never speak of her mother who died a year earlier, but visions of her mother, friendships with a homeless man and a disabled boy, and a huge dog ensure that she still communicates.
	<i>Each Tiny Spark</i>	Pablo Cartaya	5-8	Emilia Torres has a wandering mind. It's hard for her to follow along at school, and sometimes she forgets to do what her mom or abuela asks. But she remembers what matters: a time when her family was whole and home made sense. When Dad returns from deployment, Emilia expects that her life will get back to normal. Instead, it unravels.
	<i>Fifty-four Things Wrong With Gwendolyn Rogers</i>	Caela Carter	3-6	A chronically frustrated eleven-year-old girl named Gwendolyn Rogers comes to realize she has an undiagnosed mental health issue and tries every way possible to get control of her emotions.
	<i>Fish in a tree</i>	Linda Mullaly Hunt	5-8	Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on

				herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of.
	<i>Kinda Like Brothers</i>	Coe Booth	3-6	Jarrett doesn't trust Kevon. But he's got to share a room with him anyway. It was one thing when Jarrett's mom took care of foster babies who needed help. But this time it's different. This time the baby who needs help has an older brother -- a kid Jarrett's age named Kevon. Everyone thinks Jarrett and Kevon should be friends -- but that's not gonna happen. Not when Kevon's acting like he's better than Jarrett -- and not when Jarrett finds out Kevon's keeping some major secrets.
	<i>Quagmire Tiarello Couldn't be Better</i>	Mylisa Larsen	5-8	When his mother's unstable mental health forces him to find shelter with an uncle he didn't know he had, fiercely independent nonconformist Quagmire must recalibrate his formidable survival skills to build a new life.
	<i>The Real Boy</i>	Anne Ursu; drawings by Erin McGuire.	3-6	A shy boy named Oscar who works as the hand to a powerful magic worker becomes the only person who can save his village from an evil monster. This lush fantasy story stars an autistic protagonist whose portrayal is immersive and utterly believable.

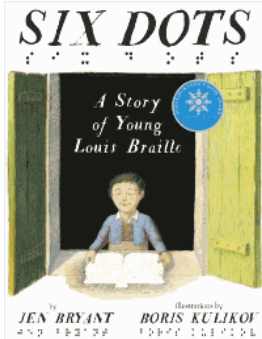


	<p><i>Roll With It</i></p> 	<p>Jamie Sumner</p>	<p>5-8</p>	<p>When Ellie and her mom move from Tennessee to Oklahoma to care for Ellie's grandfather who has dementia, Ellie is the new kid in a wheelchair from a trailer park on the wrong side of town. But Ellie tells it like it is and won't let any of that hold her back from becoming a professional baker one day.</p>
	<p><i>Rules</i></p>	<p>Cynthia Lord</p>	<p>3-6</p>	<p>Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with a young paraplegic.</p>
	<p><i>Show Me a Sign</i></p> 	<p>Ann Clare LeZotte</p>	<p>3-6</p>	<p>Mary Lambert has always felt safe and protected on her beloved island of Martha's Vineyard. Many people there; including Mary; are deaf, and nearly everyone can communicate in sign language. But now a young scientist has arrived, and his drive to discover the origin of the island's prevalent deafness soon renders Mary a "live specimen" in a cruel experiment.</p>

	<p><i>Song For A Whale</i></p> 	<p>Lynne Kelly</p>	<p>3-6</p>	<p>From fixing the class computer to repairing old radios, twelve-year-old Iris is a tech genius. But she's the only deaf person in her school, so people often treat her like she's not very smart. If you've ever felt like no one was listening to you, then you know how hard that can be.</p>
	<p><i>Squint</i></p>	<p>Chad Morris and Shelly Brown</p>	<p>5-7</p>	<p>Flint Minett has keratoconus, an eye disease, but desperately wants to win a comic book art contest so that he and his new friend McKell Panganiban will be better accepted at middle school.</p>
	<p><i>The Truth as Told by Mason Buttle</i></p> 	<p>Leslie Connor</p>	<p>5-8</p>	<p>Mason Buttle is the biggest, sweatiest kid in his grade, and everyone knows he can barely read or write. Mason's learning disabilities are compounded by grief. Fifteen months ago, Mason's best friend, Benny Kilmartin, turned up dead in the Buttle family's orchard. An investigation drags on, and Mason, honest as the day is long, can't understand why Lieutenant Baird won't believe the story Mason has told about that day.</p>

	<p><i>The War That Saved My Life</i></p>	<p>Kimberly Brubaker Bradley</p>	<p>3-6</p>	<p>A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother.</p>
	<p><i>Wonderstruck: A Novel in Words and Pictures</i></p>	<p>Brian Selznick</p>	<p>5-8</p>	
<p><b>Nonfiction</b></p>				
	<p><i>A Boy and a Jaguar</i></p>	<p>Alan Rabinowitz; illustrated by Cátia Chientz</p>	<p>K-3</p>	<p>Picture book autobiography of Alan Rabinowitz, a wildlife conservationist, who struggled with stuttering as a child.</p>
	<p><i>Normal</i></p>	<p>Magdalena M. and Nathaniel Newman with Hilary Liftin; illustrated by Neil Swaab.</p>	<p>5-8</p>	<p>Nathaniel Newman and his mother, Magda, tell the story of his growing up with Treacher Collins Syndrome, the same craniofacial syndrome as the boy from 'Wonder,' from facing sixty-seven surgeries before the age of fifteen, to making friends, moving across the country, and persevering through hardships.</p>



	<i>Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille</i>	Jen Bryant; illustrations by Boris Kulikov	K-3	Looks at the childhood of Louis Braille and his creation of the Braille writing system for the blind.
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## References and Additional Resources

<a href="#">Schneider Family Book Award</a>	The Schneider Family Book Awards honor an author or illustrator for a book that embodies an artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences.
<a href="#">Disability in Kidlit</a>	Disability in Kidlit is dedicated to discussing the portrayal of disability in middle grade and young adult literature. Includes reviews and the Honor Roll with enthusiastically recommended titles thoroughly vetted by disabled readers.
<a href="#">Social Justice Books</a>	More than 80 carefully selected lists of multicultural and social justice books for children, young adults, and educators including Different Abilities and Disability and Autism.



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