Choose These

- Uses person-first language (people with disabilities not disabled people)
- Promotes understanding and empathy (not sympathy)
- Uses accurate information
- Promotes respect and acceptance
- Depictions emphasize similarities rather than differences (one of us vs. one of them)
- Depicts successes and shows strengths
- Shows balance of strengths and abilities in conjunction with the disability
- Promotes positive images and role models
- Represent a variety of races, cultures, ages, religions, LGBTQt?
- Depicts the ability to work/be active
- Integrated into school, work, dating, the community with peers and with non-disabled
- Characters and adaptive equipment should be accurately depicted

Avoid These

- Victims or objects of pity
- Tokenism, curiosities (one dimensional)
- Personality is defined by disability (character is mad/sad/bitter)
- Unnaturally inspirational/voice of wisdom
- Ordinary achievements as "heroic"
- Characters are completely dependent/helpless
- Focused only on the disability or the possibility of a cure
- Shameful or unattractive
- Prejudicial language used (slow, retarded, crippled)
- Only shown in "special" settings, never in ordinary day-to-day interactions
- Focused on the can'ts not the cans
- Disabilities as deficiencies instead of differences
- Disability as only a problem for the person not for society
- Asexual
- Allies are "saints"

Representation of the Differently Abled/Disabled in Youth Literature


Read More About the Issues
The Good Book List

* Denotes Schneider Book Award  HTTP://WWW.ALA.ORG/AWARDSGRANTS/AWARDS/I/ALL_YEARS
# Denotes Dolly Gray Award  HTTP://DADDCEC.ORG/AWARDS/DOLLYGRAYAWARDS.ASPX

Picture Books
- A Boy And a Jaguar by Alan Rabinowitz*
- Dad, Jackie, and Me by Myron Uhlberg*
- Deaf Musicians by Pete Seeger and Paul Dubois Jacobs*
- Ian’s Walk by Laurie Lears*
- Just Because by Rebecca Elliott
- Lucy’s Picture by Nicola Moon
- My Brother Charlie by Holly Robinson Peete*
- My Pal Victor by Diane Bertrand Gonzales*
- The Pirate of Kindergarten by George Ella Lyon*
- Susan Laughs by Jeannie Willis

Juvenile Books
- Becoming Naomi Leon by Pam Munoz Ryan*
- Dog Called Homeless by Sarah Lean*
- El Deafo by Cece Bell
- The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd#
- Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine*
- Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper
- Rain Reign by Ann M. Martin#
- Remember Dippy by Shirley Vernick*
- So B. It by Sarah Weeks*
- Wonder by J.R. Palacio

Young Adult Books
- The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie
- The Curious incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon*
- Five Flavors of Dumb*
- Jerk, California by Jonathan Friesen*
- Marcelo in the Real World by Francisco X. Stork*
- Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend by Matthew Dicks*
- Not If I See You First by Eric Lindstrom
- Reaching For Sun by Tracie Vaughn Zimmer*
- Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen*
- Stuck in Neutral by Terry Trueman