



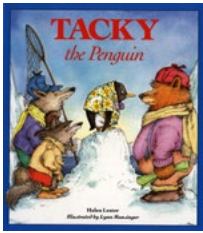
The Little Senses series

by: *Samantha Cotterill*

Samantha Cotterill's Little Senses books are created with love for any kid who sometimes feels anxious or overwhelmed, but especially for kids who are on the autism spectrum and/or have sensory issues

Competencies: Learning Differences, Problem Solving, Resilience

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



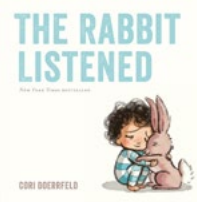
Tacky the Penguin

by: *Helen Lester, Illustrated by: Lynn Munsinger*

An offbeat penguin shows his peers the power of individuality in this humorous tale

Competencies: Self-Awareness, Community and Friendship

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



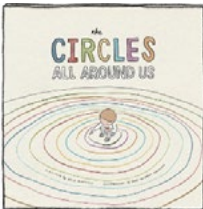
The Rabbit Listened

by: *Cori Doerrfeld*

A moving and universal picture book about empathy and kindness, sure to soothe heartaches big and small.

Competencies: Empathy, Big Feelings, Resilience

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



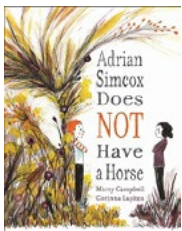
Circles All Around Us Relationship Skills

by: *Brad Montague (Author, Illustrator), Kristi Montague (Illustrator)*

A moving take on how we can create bigger and bigger circles of community and connections as we grow

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Belonging

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



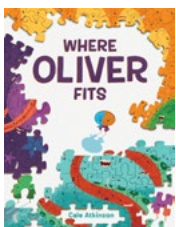
Adrian Simcox Does NOT Have a Horse

by: *Marcy Campbell (Author) Corinna Luyken (Illustrator)*

Written with tenderness and poignancy and gorgeously illustrated, this book will show readers that kindness is always rewarding, understanding is sweeter than judgment, and friendship is the best gift one can give.

Competencies: Empathy, Community and Friendship

Available at: [Bookshop.org](#)



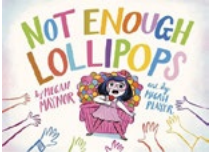
Where Oliver Fits

by: *Cale Atkinson (Author)*

Where Oliver Fits is a sweet and funny story that explores all the highs and lows of learning to be yourself and shows that fitting in isn't always the best fit.

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Self-Awareness, Belonging

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Not Enough Lollipops

by: Megan Maynor (Author), Micah Player (Illustrator)

Alice thinks it's her lucky day when she wins a wagon full of lollipops, but sharing them with her classmates is more complicated than it seems. Can she find a fair way to divvy up the sweets?

Competencies: Problem Solving, Self-Awareness

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



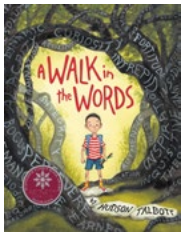
Big Feelings

by: Alexandra Penfold (Author), Suzanne Kaufman (Illustrator)

What should we do when things don't go to plan? We may feel mad, frustrated, or overwhelmed, but by talking it through, compromising, and seeing another point of view, we can start fresh, begin anew.

Competencies: Big Feelings, Empathy

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



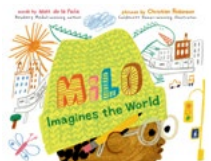
A Walk in the Words

by: Hudson Talbott (Author, Illustrator)

Hudson Talbott's inspiring story vividly reveals the challenges—and ultimately the rewards—of being a non-mainstream kind of learner.

Competencies: Learning Differences, Empathy, Belonging

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



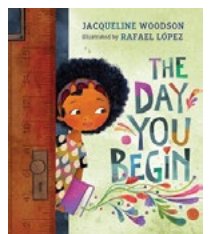
Milo Imagines the World

by: Matt de la Peña (Author), Christian Robinson (Illustrator)

The team behind the Newbery Medal winner and Caldecott Honor book *Last Stop on Market Street* and the award-winning New York Times bestseller *Carmela Full of Wishes* once again delivers a poignant and timely picture book that's sure to become an instant classic.

Competencies: Empathy, Community and Friendship

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



The Day You Begin

by: Jacqueline Woodson (Author), Rafael López (Illustrator)

A poignant, yet heartening book about finding courage to connect, even when you feel scared and alone.

Competencies: Self-Awareness, Community and Friendship, Big Feelings

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



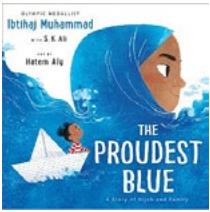
Big Bright Feelings

by: Percival Tom (Author)

The Big Bright Feelings picture book series provides kid-friendly entry points into emotional intelligence topics — from being true to yourself to dealing with worries, managing anger, and making friends.

Competencies: Big Feelings, Self-Awareness

Available at: [Amazon](#)



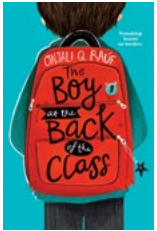
The Proudest Blue

by: Ibtihaj Muhammad (Author), S. K. Ali Hatem Aly (Illustrator)

A powerful, vibrantly illustrated story about the first day of school—and two sisters on one's first day of hijab—by Olympic medalist and social justice activist Ibtihaj Muhammad.

Competencies: Self-Awareness, Community and Friendship, Belonging

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



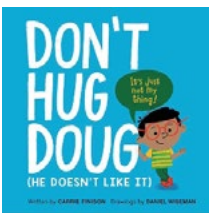
The Boy at the Back of the Class

Onjali Q. Raúf (Author)

Told with humor and heart, The Boy at the Back of the Class offers a child's perspective on the refugee crisis, highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness in a world that doesn't always make sense.

Competencies: Community and Friendship

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



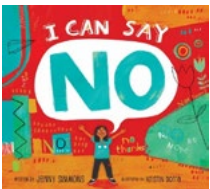
Don't Hug Doug

Carrie Finison (Author), Daniel Wiseman (Illustrator)

Meet Doug, an ordinary kid who doesn't like hugs, in this fun and exuberant story which aims to spark discussions about bodily autonomy and consent.

Competencies: Self-Awareness, Community and Friendship, Big Feelings

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



I Can Say No

by: Jenny Simmons (Author), Kristin Sorra (Illustrator)

In I Can Say No, Jenny Simmons teaches children the power of the word "no." Whether it's saying no to bullying or someone invading their personal space or simply to playing with a friend when they need some alone time, children learn that they can use their voice to stand up for what is good in the world, and good for themselves.

Competencies: Self-Awareness

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



The Boy with Big, Big Feelings

by: Britney Winn Lee (Author), Jacob Souva (Illustrator)

The story of one little boy with some big, big emotions—and how he learns to see them for the gifts they are.

Competencies: Big Feelings, Self-Awareness

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



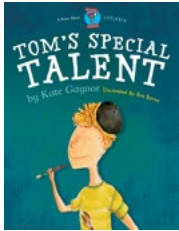
Leo The Late Bloomer

by: Robert Kraus (Author), Jose Aruego (Illustrator)

This heartwarming story of how a little tiger named Leo bloomed

Competencies: Self-Awareness, Community and Friendship

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



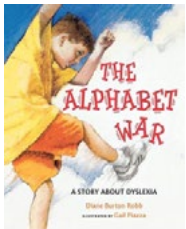
Tom's Special Talent

by: Kate Gaynor (Author)

Delightful book that encourages other children to be mindful of the differences that exist between their friends and classmates and to be aware that all children, regardless of their talents, learn differently.

Competencies: Self-Awareness, Community and Friendship

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



The Alphabet War

by: Diane Burton Robb (Author), Gail Piazza (Illustrator)

A classic picture book about dyslexia

Competencies: Learning Differences, Self-Awareness

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



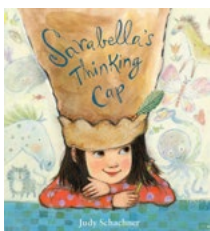
Leah's Voice

by: Lori DeMonia (Author), Monique Turchan (Illustrator)

Leah's Voice is a story that touches on the difficulties children encounter when they meet a child with autism or special needs.

Competencies: Learning Differences

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



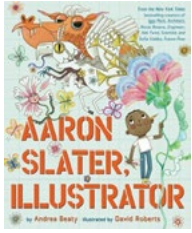
Sarabella's Thinking Cap

by: Judy Schachner (Author)

A heartwarming story about the importance of imagination and creativity.

Competencies: Learning Differences, Self-Awareness

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



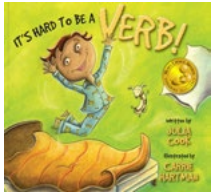
Aaron Slater, Illustrator

by: *Andrea Beaty (Author), David Roberts (Illustrator)*

An uplifting story about the power of art, finding your voice, and telling your story even when you're out of step with your peers

Competencies: Self-Awareness, Learning Differences

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



It's Hard to be a Verb

by: *Julia Cook (Author), Carrie Hartman (Illustrator)*

A classic picture book about ADHD

Competencies: Learning Differences, Self-Awareness

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



The Most Magnificent Thing

by: *Ashley Spires (Author, Illustrator)*

A charming picture book about an unnamed girl and her very best friend, who happens to be a dog.

Competencies: Empathy, Community and Friendship

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Your Fantastic Elastic Brain

by: *JoAnn Deak Ph.D. (Author), Sarah Ackerley (Illustrator)*

Did you know you can stretch and grow your own brain? Or that making mistakes is one of the best ways your brain learns? Awarded as one of the best growth mindset books for kids, Your Fantastic Elastic Brain: Stretch It, Shape It teaches all the ways that the brain can develop with exercise, just like the rest of our bodies.

Competencies: Learning Differences, Self-Awareness

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



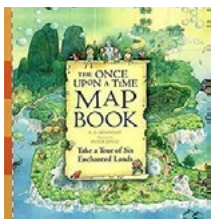
The Noisy Paint Box

by: *Barb Rosenstock (Author), Mary GrandPré (Illustrator)*

In this exuberant celebration of creativity, Barb Rosenstock and Mary GrandPré tell the fascinating story of Vasily Kandinsky, one of the very first painters of abstract art

Competencies: Self-Awareness, Resilience

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Once Upon a Map

by: *B.G. Hennessy and Peter Joyce*

Imagine that fairy tales are real and can be explored in detail with the help of maps

Competencies: Problem Solving

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



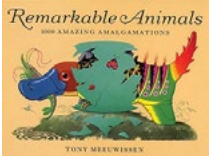
Stand Tall, Mary Lou Melon

by: *Patty Lovell (Author), David Catrow (Illustrator)*

Be yourself like Molly Lou Melon no matter what a bully may do.

Competencies: Problem Solving, Community and Friendship

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)

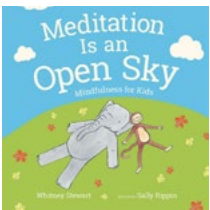


Remarkable Animals

by: *Tony Meeuwissen*

What is a Treevipus? A fantastic creature with the head of a trunkfish, the body of a weevil, and the tail of a platypus, of course!

Available at: [Amazon](#)



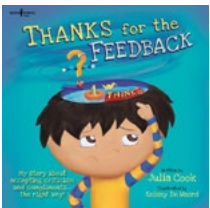
Meditation is an Open Sky

by: *Whitney Stewart (Author), Sally Ripplin (Illustrator)*

Mindfulness meditation for kids. Kids of any age will learn simple exercises to help manage stress and emotions, find focus, and face challenges.

Competencies: Self-Awareness

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Thanks for the Feedback, I Think

by: *Julia Cook (Author), Kelsey De Weerd (Illustrator)*

Teach them the social skills “how to accept feedback” and “how to give and receive compliments” using a kid-friendly story with a lesson that enriches social emotional learning.

Competencies: Self-Awareness, Community and Friendship

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Narwahl and Jelly series

by: Ben Clanton (Author)

This series showcases the joys of friendship, the benefits of working together and the power of imagination.

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Problem Solving

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Arnold and Louise series

by: Erica S. Perl (Author), Chris Chatterton (Illustrator)

An easy to read series about friendship

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Problem Solving

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



J.D. the Kid Barber series

by: J. Dillard (Author), Akeem S. Roberts (Illustrator)

Eight-year-old J.D. turns a tragic home haircut into a thriving barber business in this hilarious new illustrated chapter book series

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Problem Solving

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Jada Jones series

by: Kelly Starling Lyons (Author), Vanessa Brantley-Newton (Illustrator)

An easy to read series about friendship, community and problem solving

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Problem Solving

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Meet Yasmin series

by: Saadia Faruqi (Author), Hatem Aly (Illustrator)

Meet Yasmin! Yasmin is a spirited second-grader who's always on the lookout for those "aha" moments to help her solve life's little problems.

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Problem Solving

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Frog and Toad series

by: Arnold Lobel (Author)

Classic series about friendship and community.

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Problem Solving

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)

Book List: Early Chapter Books



Pedro series

by: Fran Manushkin (Author), Tammie Lyon (Illustrator)

From a buggy disaster to a run for class president, Pedro has what it takes to be the hero of first-grade.

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Problem Solving

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



West Meadows Detective series

by: Liam O'Donnell (Author), Aurélie Grand (Illustrator)

A delightful series following a mystery loving autistic third grader and his neurodivergent friends

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Problem Solving, Learning Differences

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



Mia Mayham series

by: Kara West (Author), Leeza Hernandez (Illustrator)

With easy-to-read language and illustrations on almost every page, the Mia Mayhem chapter books are perfect for emerging readers.

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Problem Solving

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



The Bad Guys series

by: Aaron Blabey

Getting into trouble is what the Bad Guys do best! The Bad Guys are scary and dangerous and well? just BAD. But these guys want to be heroes, and they're ready to spring into action.

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Problem Solving, Self-Awareness

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



Zoey and Sassafras series

by: Asia Citro M.Ed. (Author), Asia Citro (Author), Marion Lindsay (Illustrator)

Each story in the Zoey and Sassafras series features a new magical animal with a problem that must be solved using science.

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Problem Solving

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)

Book List: Early Chapter Books



Ramona Quimby series

Beverly Cleary

Beloved series featuring the trials and triumphs of growing up through a relatable heroine who isn't afraid to be exactly who she is.

Competencies: Big Feelings, Self-Awareness, Community and Friendship

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



EllRay Jakes series

by: Sally Warner (Author), Jamie Harper (Illustrator), Brian Biggs (Illustrator)

Even though he's the smallest kid in class, eight-year-old EllRay Jakes can get himself into big trouble. This humorous and true to life series starring an African-American family is just right for boys and reluctant readers.

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Problem Solving

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



Planet Omar series

by: Zanib Mian (Author), Nasaya Mafaridik (Illustrator)

Omar's enormous imagination and goofy family help him get through life's ups and downs.

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Big Feelings, Resilience

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



Make Way for Dymonde Daniel series

by: Nikki Grimes (Author), R. Gregory Christie (Illustrator)

Dymonde Daniel is a little girl with a big personality—a third-grader with wild-crazy hair, awesome brainpower, and a sparkling can-do spirit.

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Self-Awareness

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



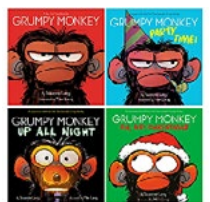
Bea Garcia series

by: Deborah Zemke (Author)

This spunky chapter book series is perfect for fans of Amelia's Notebook, Judy Moody, and Dory Fantasmagory series.

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Problem Solving

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



Grumpy Monkey series

by: Suzanne Lang (Author), Max Lang (Illustrator)

A warm and funny chapter book graphic novel about how to handle all of life's ups and downs from the creators of the #1 New York Times bestselling Grumpy Monkey.

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Problem Solving, Resilience

Available at: [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com) and [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org)



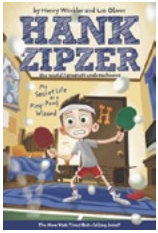
Good Different

By: Meg Eden Kuyatt

An extraordinary novel-in-verse for fans of *Starfish* and *A Kind of Spark* about a neurodivergent girl who comes to understand and celebrate her difference.

Competencies: Self-Awareness, Community and Friendship, Learning Differences

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



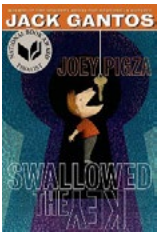
Hank Zipzer

By: Lin Oliver (Author), Henry Winkler (Author), Jesse Joshua Watson (Illustrator) and Tim Heitz (Illustrator)

Inspired by the true life experiences of Henry Winkler, whose undiagnosed dyslexia made him a classic childhood underachiever, the Hank Zipzer series is about the high-spirited and funny adventures of a boy with learning differences.

Competencies: Learning Differences, Problem Solving, Resilience

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key

by: Jack Gantos (Author)

Classic middle series following Joey Pigza, a kid with learning differences

Competencies: Learning Differences, Self-Awareness, Problem Solving

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Stanley Will Probably Be Fine

by: Sally J. Pla (Author), Steve Wolfhard (Illustrator)

Sweet and funny novel following our young hero, Stanley Fortinbras, as he grapples with his anxiety—and learns what, exactly, it means to be brave.

Competencies: Learning Differences, Problem Solving, Self-Awareness

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Wonder

by: R. J. Palacio

Beloved middle-grade novel about a boy named Auggie who proves that you can't blend in when you were born to stand out

Competencies: Empathy, Community and Friendship, Belonging

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Fish in a Tree

by: Lynda Mullaly Hunt

An emotionally-charged, uplifting novel that will speak to anyone who's ever thought there was something wrong with them because they didn't fit in.

Competencies: Learning Differences, Self-Awareness, Learning Goals

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Close to Famous

by: Joan Bauer

A novel full of heart, humor, and charm about learning differences, the joy of baking, and finding your place.

Competencies: Learning Differences, Community and Friendship, Learning Goals

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



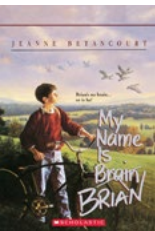
Eleven

by: Patricia Reilly Giff

A mystery centered around a young boy who must face his struggles with reading to solve the mystery of who he really is.

Competencies: Learning Differences, Problem Solving, Learning Goals

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



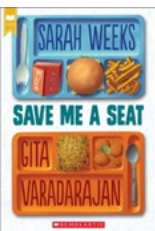
My name is Brain Brian

by: Jeanne Betancourt (Author)

Struggling with problems that the kids in his class see as clowning around, such as mixing things up and spelling letters backwards, Brian learns he has dyslexia and suffers peer teasing when his friends do not understand.

Competencies: Learning Differences, Community and Friendship, Resilience

Available at: [Amazon](#)



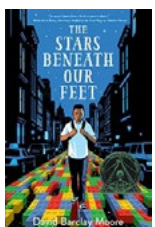
Save me a Seat

by: Sarah Weeks (Author), Gita Varadarajan (Author)

Told from the points of view of two narrators, Save Me a Seat grapples with belonging, bullies, and friendship.

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Belonging, Problem Solving

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



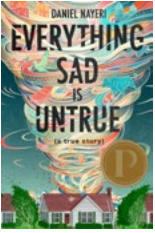
The Stars Beneath our Feet

by: David Barclay Moore

A boy tries to steer a safe path through the projects in Harlem in the wake of his brother's death in this outstanding debut novel that celebrates community and creativity.

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Problem Solving, Resilience

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Everything Sad is Untrue

by: Daniel Nayeri

An autobiographical novel told in the unforgettable and hilarious voice of a young Iranian refugee. It is a powerfully layered novel that poses the questions: Who owns the truth? Who speaks it? Who believes it?

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Problem Solving, Belonging

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Dress Coded

by: Carrie Firestone

In this middle-grade girl-power friendship story, perfect for fans of Moxie, an eighth grader starts a podcast to protest the unfair dress code enforcement at her middle school and sparks a rebellion.

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Problem Solving, Self-Awareness

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Posted

by: John David Anderson

A humorous, poignant, and original contemporary story about bullying, broken friendships, social media, and the failures of communication between kids.

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Problem Solving, Resilience

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Turtle Boy

by: M. Evan Wolkenstein

A boy who has spent his life living inside a shell discovers the importance of taking chance in this "winner" (Booklist, starred review) of a friendship story that's perfect for fans of Wonder.

Competencies: Empathy, Community and Friendship, Self-Awareness

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



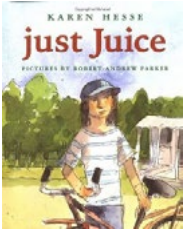
Swim Team

by: Johnnie Christmas (Author, Illustrator)

A splashy, contemporary middle grade graphic novel from bestselling comics creator Johnnie Christmas!

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Problem Solving, Self-Awareness

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



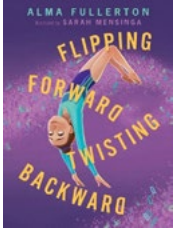
Just Juice

by: Karen Hesse (Author), Robert Andrew Parker (Illustrator)

A classic family story about life-sized problems and everyday heroes.

Competencies: Learning Differences, Problem Solving, Belonging

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



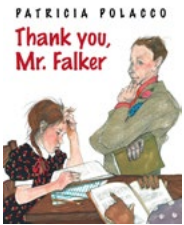
Flipping Forward, Twisting Backwards

by: Alma Fullerton (Author), Sarah Mensinga (Illustrator)

A diagnosis of dyslexia could change everything for an aspiring fifth-grade gymnast struggling at school in this authentic, high-energy novel in verse.

Competencies: Learning Differences, Resilience, Problem Solving

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Thank You, Mr. Falker

by: Patricia Polacco

The real-life, classic story of a dyslexic girl and the teacher who would not let her fail.

Competencies: Learning Differences, Resilience, Problem Solving

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Each Tiny Spark

by: Pablo Cartaya

A deeply moving middle grade novel about a daughter and father finding their way back to each other in the face of their changing family and community.

Competencies: Learning Differences, Community and Friendship, Resilience

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



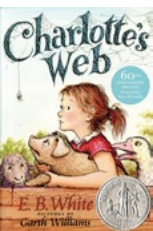
Tune It Out

by: Jamie Sumner

A moving novel about a girl with a sensory processing disorder who has to find her own voice after her whole world turns upside down.

Competencies: Learning Differences, Resilience, Self-Awareness

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)



Charlotte's Web

by: E. B. White (Author), Garth Williams (Illustrator)

A tender novel of friendship, love, life, and death that will continue to be enjoyed by generations to come

Competencies: Community and Friendship, Resilience, Empathy

Available at: [Amazon](#) and [Bookshop.org](#)