



How we evaluate our books

Perspective:

Who is centered in the story?

When the book centers a disabled person, it allows readers to see the world through the unique experiences of that character; what challenges they need to overcome and the complete range of their feelings. When the story centers on an abled person and their experience it can take away from the humanization of the disabled character.

Depth of Character

Does the disabled person have multiple interests and traits, or are they defined only by their disability? When readers are offered characters where they can identify with their trials and hardships as well as their interests and success, it allows them practice at greater empathy and helps them understand why fairness, kindness, and friendship are essential parts of every person's story.

Terminology

What terms does the book use to describe and label the disability? Terminology changes often, and finding books that use current terminology is an important way to make sure the disabled community is being respected and listened to.

Author's Experience

When an author has a connection to the community and experiences they are writing about, it can help to center the disabled community. When we make sure to focus on the stories of people with disabled experiences, we can feel confident that we are hearing a variety of authentic stories.

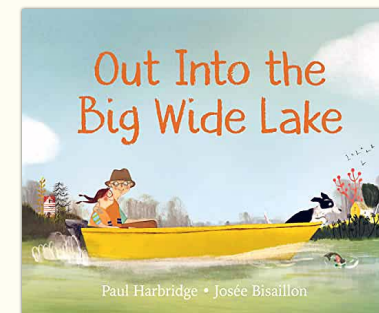
We use these guidelines not to exclude books which might not meet all these criteria, but to help us evaluate the quality of literature we are recommending and sharing. It also helps to keep us as librarians and parents abreast of changes in terminology and ideas about what disability justice is.



READING JUSTICE *Family Book Club*

What is Disability Justice?

When we read about people with disabilities, it helps us notice the similarities and differences in our experiences of the world. People with a disability can face barriers to being fully included in society, and hearing their stories helps us to empathize and want to make a fair world for everyone.



Out Into the Big Wide Lake
E HARBRIDGE

When we talk about justice, we are recognizing that our society is not set up for everyone to succeed. There are groups of people who get less access and less help, and Disability Justice asks us what we can do as a society to be understanding of differences and still be inclusive. Disability Justice also aims to include people as their whole self and not to limit them by stereotypes.

What is Down Syndrome?

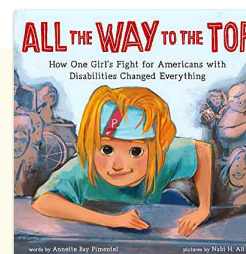
People with Down syndrome have an extra chromosome in their cells. This additional genetic material directs their growth and development and causes the traits we can recognize as Down syndrome. We can notice that people with Down syndrome often talk and look like other people with Down syndrome and still understand that each person wants to be recognized or their uniqueness just like everyone does.



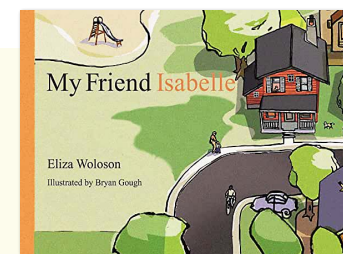
Discussion Questions

- Why is Kate's mom worried about her going to the lake?
- Why is the Walter so critical of Kate?
- How did Kate feel when her grandparents wanted her to come visit? How did it make her feel to learn to use the boat? How would it make you feel?
- How does it make you feel when people think you are too young or not skilled enough to do something?
- Do you ever feel left out?
- Do you know anyone with a disability? What can you do to be a good friend to them?
- If you have a disability, how do you like to talk about it?

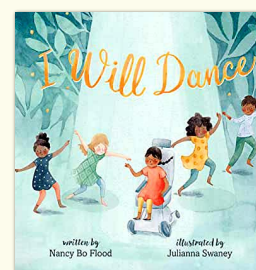
Great Books: Reading Justice



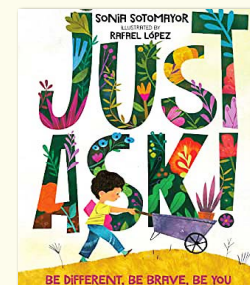
All the Way to the Top
J 362.43 Pimentel



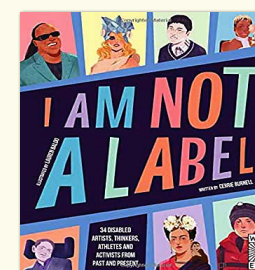
My Friend Isabelle
E WOLOSON



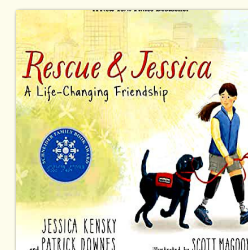
I Will Dance
E Flood



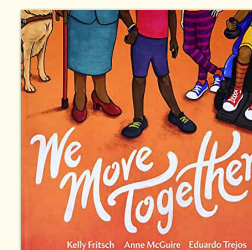
Just Ask
J 305.23 SOTOMAYOR



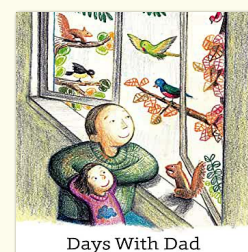
I Am Not a Label
J 362.4 BURNELL



Rescue & Jessica
E Kensky



We Move Together
E FRITSCH



Days with Dad
E Hong



Hello Goodbye Dog
E Gianferrai