



## For Younger Elementary School Students



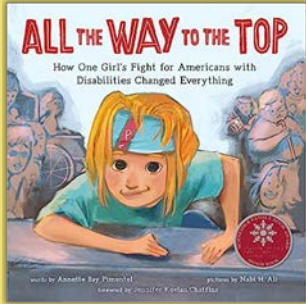
Learn about significant moments in disability history and fighting for your rights!

Supported by



This book list was made by The Arc Maryland, a disability advocacy organization. The Arc played a large part in the disability rights movement in the United States.

Thank you to The Nora Roberts Foundation for their support!

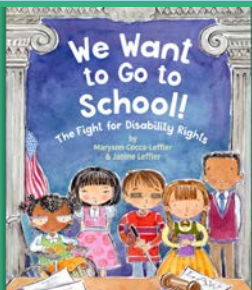


### **All the Way to the Top: How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed Everything** By Annette Bay Pimentel (Grades K-2)

Experience the true story of lifelong activist Jennifer Keelan-Chaffins and her participation in the Capitol Crawl, a landmark event in the history of the Americans with Disabilities Act, a law that would make public spaces much more accessible to people with disabilities. And to make sure it passed, Jennifer went to the steps of the Capitol building in Washington DC to convince them. And, without her wheelchair, she climbed. ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP! This is the story of a little girl who just wanted to go, even when others tried to stop her.

### **Fighting for Yes! The Story of Disability Rights Activist Judith Heumann** By Maryann Cocca-Leffler (Grades 1-4)

A picture book biography celebrating the life and work of disability rights activist and icon, Judith Heumann, highlighting one of her landmark achievements—leading the historic 504 Sit-in in 1977. Along with a personal reflection from Judy herself, this picture book biography captures the impact and influence of one of America's greatest living activists.

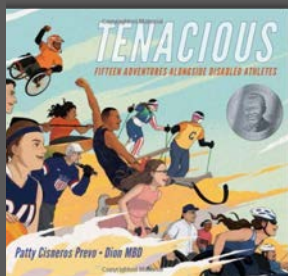


### **We Want to Go to School! The Fight for Disability Rights** By Maryann Cocca-Leffler & Janine Leffler (Grades 3-5)

There was a time in the United States when millions of children with disabilities weren't allowed to go to public school. But in 1971, seven kids and their families wanted to do something about it. They knew that every child had a right to an equal education, so they went to court to fight for that right. The case Mills v. Board of Education of the District of Columbia led to laws ensuring children with disabilities would receive a free, appropriate public education.

### **Coloring and Activity Book on The Story of the 504 Sit-In, For Kids** \*(All ages) By Rajiv Fernandez & Rose Perry PhD

This educational coloring and activity book brings the story of the 504 Sit-In to life, highlighting the determination of disability rights activists who fought for the first ever civil rights for people with disabilities in the United States. This event led to the enforcement of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Discover disability pride and accessibility-themed activities inside. This book is an invaluable resource for teaching children about the importance of disability rights, disability pride, and the ongoing struggle for inclusivity.



### **Tenacious: Fifteen Adventures Alongside Disabled Athletes** By Patty Cisneros Prevo (Grades 3-5)

Meet fifteen remarkable athletes who use adaptive equipment in this beautiful and truth-telling picture book. A downhill skier whose blindness has sharpened her communication skills. An adaptive surfer who shreds waves while sitting down. A young man who excels at wheelchair motocross but struggles with math. "Tenacious" tells their stories and more, revealing the daily joys and challenges of life as an athlete with disabilities. These competitors have won gold medals, set world records, climbed mountain peaks, claimed national championships, and many more extraordinary achievements.



## For Older Elementary and Middle School Students



**Take a look at these books featuring characters with disabilities navigating life!**

Supported by



This book list was made by The Arc Maryland, a disability advocacy organization. The Arc played a large part in the disability rights movement in the United States.

Thank you to The Nora Roberts Foundation for their support!



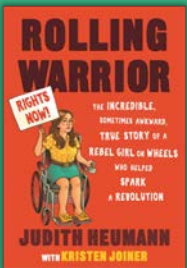
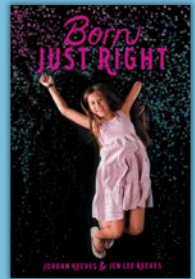
### **Real By Carol Cujec (Grades 4-6)**

Charity may have mad math skills and a near-perfect memory, but with a mouth that can't speak and a body that jumps, rocks, and howls unpredictably, most people incorrectly assume she cannot learn. Charity's brain works differently from most people's because of her autism, but she's still funny, determined, and kind. So why do people treat her like a disease or ignore her like she's invisible? When Charity's parents enroll her in a public middle school, she faces her greatest fears. Will kids make fun of her? Will her behavior get her kicked out? Will her million thoughts stay locked in her head forever? With the support of teachers and newfound friends, Charity will have to fight to be treated like a real student.

### **Born Just Right By: Jordan Reeves & Jen Lee Reeves (Grades 4-8)**

With humor, and heart, Jordan's mother, Jen Lee Reeves, helps Jordan tell her story about growing up in an able-bodied world and family, where she was treated like all of her siblings and classmates—and where she never felt limited. Whether it was changing people's minds about her capabilities, trying all kinds of sports, or mentoring other kids, Jordan has channeled any negativity into a positive, and is determined to create more innovations for people just like her. A real-life superhero, Jordan is changing the world with her foundation, Born Just Right, which advocates and celebrates kids with differences, and helps them live their best possible life—just like Jordan is today!

Learn more about Born Just Right on their website: <https://www.bornjustright.org/>



### **Rolling Warrior: The Incredible, Sometimes Awkward, True Story of a Rebel Girl on Wheels Who Helped Spark a Revolution By Judith Heumann (Grades 5-9)**

Judy Heumann was only 5 years old when she was first denied her right to attend school. Paralyzed from polio and raised by her Holocaust-surviving parents in New York City, Judy had a drive for equality that was instilled early in life. In this young readers' edition of her acclaimed memoir, Being Heumann, Judy shares her journey of battling for equal access in an unequal world—from fighting to attend grade school after being described as a "fire hazard" because of her wheelchair, to suing the New York City school system for denying her a teacher's license because of her disability. Judy's bravery, persistence, and signature rebellious streak will speak to every person fighting to belong and fighting for social justice.

### **Shiny Misfits: A Graphic Novel By Maysoon Zayid (Grades 5-8)**

She's sure her moment in the spotlight has arrived when she wins the school talent show with a showstopping tap routine! But then her classmate and crush, Alyee Maq, causes her to wobble and almost fall. The video of him catching her goes viral, making Alyee an overnight sensation for "helping her." Bay Ann is reduced to her disability and her talent is ignored. The daughter of Palestinian immigrants, as a child she dreamed of one day dancing on Broadway. As a teen, a bubble-bursting choreographer told her to "find another dream", so she set her sights on becoming a soap star, undeterred by the fact that the odds were against her. While chasing fame, she found her voice in stand-up comedy, performing in multiple languages in sold-out shows all over the world.



### **How We Roll By Natasha Friend (Grades 7-9)**

Quinn is a teen who loves her family, skateboarding, basketball, and her friends, but after she's diagnosed with a condition called alopecia which causes her to lose all of her hair, her friends abandon her. Jake was once a star football player, but because of a freak accident—caused by his brother—he loses both of his legs. Quinn and Jake meet and find the confidence to believe in themselves again, and maybe even love. A gentle young adult romance for fans of Sarah Dessen about two teens, each of whom has lost something irreplaceable, finding one another.





## For High School Students and Young Adults

Check out these books written by authors with disabilities about their own lived experiences!



Supported by



This book list was made by The Arc Maryland, a disability advocacy organization. The Arc played a large part in the disability rights movement in the United States. Thank you to The Nora Roberts Foundation for their support!



### Sitting Pretty: The View from My Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body By Rebekah Taussig

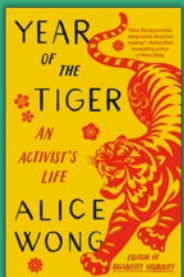
A memoir-in-essays from disability advocate and creator of the Instagram account @sitting\_pretty Rebekah Taussig, processing a lifetime of memories to paint a beautiful, nuanced portrait of a body that looks and moves differently than most. Writing about the rhythms and textures of what it means to live in a body that doesn't fit, Rebekah reflects on everything from the complications of kindness and charity, living both independently and dependently, experiencing intimacy, and how the pervasiveness of ableism in our everyday media directly translates to everyday life. Disability affects all of us, directly or indirectly, at one point or another.



@sitting\_pretty

### The Pretty One: On Life, Pop Culture, Disability, and Other Reasons to Fall in Love with Me By Keah Brown

Keah Brown loves herself, but that hadn't always been the case. Born with cerebral palsy, her greatest desire used to be normalcy and refuge from the steady stream of self-hate society strengthened inside her. But after years of introspection and reaching out to others in her community, she has reclaimed herself and changed her perspective. The book gives a contemporary and relatable voice to the disabled—so often portrayed as mute, weak, or isolated. With clear, fresh, and light-hearted prose, these essays explore everything from her relationship with her able-bodied identical twin (called "the pretty one" by friends) to navigating romance; her deep affinity for all things pop culture—and her disappointment with the media's distorted view of disability; and her declaration of self-love with the viral hashtag #DisabledAndCute.



### Year of the Tiger: An Activist's Life By Alice Wong

NATIONAL BESTSELLER • ONE OF USA TODAY'S MUST-READ BOOKS •

This groundbreaking memoir offers a glimpse into an activist's journey to finding and cultivating community and the continued fight for disability justice, from the founder and director of the Disability Visibility Project. Drawing on a collection of original essays, previously published work, conversations, graphics, photos, commissioned art by disabled and Asian American artists, and more, Alice uses her unique talent to share an impressionistic scrapbook of her life as an Asian American disabled activist, community organizer, media maker, and dreamer.

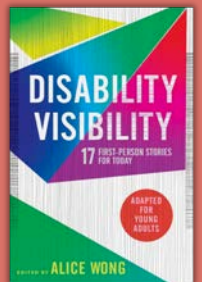


@Disability\_Visibility

### Disability Visibility (Adapted for Young Adults): 17 First-Person Stories for Today By Alice Wong

The seventeen eye-opening essays in Disability Visibility, all written by disabled people, offer keen insight into the complex and rich disability experience, examining life's ableism and inequality, its challenges and losses, and celebrating its wisdom, passion, and joy.

The accounts in this collection ask readers to think about disabled people not as individuals who need to be "fixed," but as members of a community with its own history, culture, and movements. They offer diverse perspectives that speak to past, present, and future generations. It is essential reading for all.



### Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist By Judith Heumann

One of the most influential disability rights activists in US history tells her personal story of fighting for the right to receive an education, have a job, and just be human. A story of fighting to belong in a world that wasn't built for all of us and of one woman's activism—from the streets of Brooklyn and San Francisco to inside the halls of Washington—Being Heumann recounts Judy Heumann's lifelong battle to achieve respect, acceptance, and inclusion in society. Paralyzed from polio at eighteen months, Judy's struggle for equality began early in life.

From fighting to attend grade school after being described as a "fire hazard" to later winning a lawsuit against the New York City school system for denying her a teacher's license because of her paralysis, Judy's actions set a precedent that fundamentally improved rights for disabled people.