



TOGETHER WE ARE ABLE  
School Inclusion Education Program

## STEP 4: Supplemental Reading

© copyright 2012 Shane's Inspiration. All material is, unless otherwise stated, the property of Shane's Inspiration. Copyright and other intellectual property laws protect these materials. Reproduction or retransmission of the materials, in whole or in part, in any manner, without the prior written consent of the copyright holder, is a violation of copyright law.



# READING LIST

## Preschool

### **“Someone Special, Just Like You” By Tricia Brown**

In this photo essay, preschool-aged children with disabilities are depicted having fun doing all the things that any child enjoys: blowing bubbles, singing, dancing, and eating.

### **“Big Brother Dustin” By Morton Grove**

When a new student who uses a wheelchair joins the critters’ class, the critters are nervous and curious. But when Alex arrives and they get to know him and learn about the assistance his wheelchair offers him, they realize that he is more similar than different.

### **“A Very Special Critter” By Gina and Mercer Mayer**

Dustin, a preschool-aged child who has Down Syndrome, and his family eagerly await and prepare for their new baby.

### **“We Can Do It” By Laura Dwight**

Engaging photographs show five pre-school children, each with a disability, leading full, productive and happy lives because they believe We Can Do It!

## Kindergarten – Third Grade

### **“That’s What Friends Do” By K. Cave**

This loving illustration of friends who are different in appearance will inspire children and the adults who care for and teach them.

### **“Special People, Special Ways” By Arlene Maguire**

Teaches tolerance towards, understanding of, and how to make friends with children with disabilities.

### **“We Are All Alike... We Are All Different” By Cheltenham Elementary School Students**

This compilation of kindergarteners’ drawings and words combined with Laura Dwight’s photography demonstrates that all children share differences and similarities in their lives.

### **“Susan Laughs” By Jeanne Willis**

This rhyming story depicts Susan, who is an energetic and happy girl who is busy with typical, every day, fun activities of childhood. Only the last illustration shows Susan’s wheelchair, which serves to illustrate how many more similarities children share than differences.

### **“Dustin’s Big School Day” By Morton Grove**

This story follows Dustin, a second grader who has Down Syndrome, through his school day. He attends a typical school and learns in a typical classroom, with visits to a speech therapist and an occupational therapist. Dustin is more similar to his friends than he is different.

### **“Seeing Things My Way” By Morton Grove**

Amanda is a second grader who has a vision impairment. She introduces us to her family, her school, her doctors, and the variety of assistive technology available to vision impaired students. Amanda is a busy and happy girl with many interests.

### **“Just Kids: Visiting a Class for Children with Special Needs” By Ellen Sensis**

Teaches understanding of, and tolerance towards, children with disabilities and introduces therapeutic techniques that can empower them.

### **“Princess Pooh” By Kathleen Muldoon**

Patty’s big sister, Penny, uses a wheelchair. Patty is jealous of her sister’s attention and calls her “Princess Pooh.” One day, while Penny is asleep, Patty wants to practice being a princess and tries to use the wheelchair herself. She soon realizes that it is hard work, and after many adventures, she and Penny talk about life in a wheelchair.

### **“What are your Superpowers?” By Marget Wincent, OTR**

From the charming cover of three children signing “I Love You” to the colorful rhyming story on each page, *What are your Superpowers?* celebrates the abilities of all children. There is something for everyone to enjoy, from acting, dancing, enjoying sports, riding horses or wheelchairs, playing quietly or finding hidden treasures in the park. The beauty and talents of children are explored with the message “We are all unique and our differences can be our Superpowers!”

### **“Hiya Moriah” By Victoria Nelson**

A beautifully illustrated, rhythmic story about a young girl’s life with special needs. Through her brave attitude, and silly humor, Moriah is an inspiration for us all. This is a book that families can enjoy together with a timeless message about love and acceptance, and just saying “hiya” when making a new friend with different abilities. The bonus picture glossary and “What’s This? What’s That?” page in *Hiya Moriah* creates a space for children to celebrate how special and unique each of them were made to be.

### **“More Alike Than Different” By Gail Hamblin**

Arthur has Down Syndrome. Join him as he explores the world of the playground. To him, Down Syndrome is no big deal. Until, that is, he is faced by someone who sees it as a problem. Arthur is faced with new feelings and new problems. What will he do? This book also includes facts and resources about Down Syndrome.

**“47 Strings: Tessa’s Special Code” By by Becky Carey, Carrie Stidwell O’Boyle (Editor), Bonnie Leick (Illustrations)**

A children’s picture book about the remarkable lessons to be learned from a little girl named Tessa, who was born with Down syndrome.

**“We’re Not So Different After All” By Lissette Lent, Jessica Frampton (Illustrator)**

Written from the perspective of Maggie’s older brother Noah, “We’re Not So Different After All”, is a playful story of acceptance and understanding featuring Maggie Hope, a little girl with special needs. This book helps raise awareness in a colorful and playful manner with a teaching tool to help parents start important conversations with their children.

**Kings Weekly awareness video (Visual Resource - Sports) [https://youtu.be/FL\\_Ebuwn0h0](https://youtu.be/FL_Ebuwn0h0)**

**Dodgers article (Visual Resource- Sports) <https://www.theplayerstribune.com/en-us/articles/joc-pederson-brother-champ-dodgers-down-syndrome>**

**“A Different Little Doggy” By Heather Whittaker**

A Different Little Doggy is a heartwarming story teaching children ages 4 to 7 important lessons about friendship and acceptance. This story about Taz, a small, disabled dog, has a lot to offer in both spirit and inspiration. Colorful, lively illustrations and a rhyming story line set the stage for this true, inspirational story.

**“Just Because” By Rebecca Elliott**

Amusing and often touching, this story encompasses the issue of disability in a charming celebration of sibling friendship to which all children can relate.

**“My Mouth is a Volcano!” By Julia Cook**

My Mouth Is A Volcano takes an empathetic approach to the habit of interrupting and teaches children a witty technique to capture their rambunctious thoughts and words for expression at an appropriate time. Told from Louis’ perspective, this story provides parents, teachers, and counselors with an entertaining way to teach children the value of respecting others by listening and waiting for their turn to speak.

**“The Energy Bus for Kids” By John Gordon**

An illustrated adaptation of the bestselling business fable, The Energy Bus, teaches children the benefits of staying positive In this illustrated adaptation of the bestselling fable, The Energy Bus, author Jon Gordon shows children how to overcome negativity, bullies and everyday challenges to be their best. The Energy Bus For Kids is a story that will teach kids how to find their inner motivation and pass on that positive energy to others.

**“We’re All Wonders” By R.J. Palacio**

The unforgettable bestseller Wonder has inspired a nationwide movement to Choose Kind. Now parents and educators can introduce the importance of choosing kind to younger readers with this gorgeous picture book, featuring Auggie and Daisy on an original adventure, written and illustrated by R. J. Palacio.

## Fourth – Sixth Grade

### **“Athletes With Disabilities” By D. Kent**

This chapter book contains inspiring photographs and information about athletes with a variety of disabilities who compete in Special Olympics, the Paralympics, and other competitions.

### **“Animals Helping with Special Needs” By C. Oliver**

Seeing eye dogs, hearing dogs, and other assistance pets (including monkeys!) are introduced and shown in action in photographic illustrations. Interesting and inspiring anecdotes are shared in side bars.

### **“The Seeing Stick” By Jane Yolen**

A Chinese Emperor offers a reward to anyone who can make his daughter, who is blind, see. An old man takes up the challenge. He takes his walking stick and his whittling knife and heads for Peking. Along the way, he carves pictures of his journey for the princess to touch and “see.” At the end of the book, it is revealed that the old man is blind, too.

### **“Think About Being in a Wheelchair” By Lois Keith**

This book examines life options for children who use wheelchairs.

### **“Wonder” By R.J. Palacio**

Born with several genetic abnormalities, 10-year-old August Pullman, called Auggie, dreams of being “ordinary.” Inside, he knows he’s like every other kid, but bears facial disfigurements so pronounced that people who see him for the first time do “that lookaway thing” — if they manage to hide their shock and horror. Enter fifth grade, Auggie faces a challenge even harder than the 27 surgeries he endured: entering a regular public school. How will he face, for the first time, regular kids...more importantly, how will they respond to him?

### **“The War That Saved My Life/The War I Finally Won” (2 books) by Katy Buckner**

### **“Rain, Reign” By Ann M. Martin**

Rose Howard has Asperger’s syndrome, and an obsession with homonyms (even her name is a homonym). She gave her dog Rain a name with two homonyms (Reign, Rein), which, according to Rose’s rules of homonyms, is very special. Rose and Rain are practically inseparable. Just as a storm hits town, Rain goes missing. Now Rose has to find her dog, even if it means leaving her routines and safe places to search.

### **“Fish in a Tree” By Lynda Mullaly Hunt**

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. 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.



## Seventh – Eighth Grade

### **“Wheel Wizards” By Matt Christopher**

Introduces understanding of wheelchair users.

### **“Ian’s Walk: A Story About Autism” By Laurie Lears**

Ian “thinks differently”. His two older sisters take him on a walk to the park to feed the ducks. Along the way, Ian focuses on many unusual things that he sees, hears, smells, feels, and tastes. His sisters are impatient, ignore him for a moment, and he disappears. When he is gone, they realize how much they care about him and find him by remembering what he especially likes to do.

### **“Views From Our Shoes: Growing Up With a Brother or Sister With Special Needs” By Donald Meyer**

Captures the voices and views of siblings of children with disabilities.

### **“Freak, The Mighty” By Rodman Philbrick**

Maxwell Kane, a lumbering eighth grader, has lived with grandparents Grim and Gram ever since his father was imprisoned for murdering his mother. Mean-spirited schoolmates and special ed (for an undetermined learning disability) haven’t improved his self-image, so he is totally unprepared for a friendship with Kevin, aka Freak, a veritable genius with a serious birth defect that’s left him in braces and using crutches.

## Eighth Grade / Teens / Adults

### **“Curious Incident of the Dog in The Night-Time” By Mark Haddon**

Christopher Boone, the 15-year-old narrator of this revelatory novel who has autism, relaxes by groaning and doing math problems in his head and only eats red-but not yellow or brown-foods. Strange as he may seem, other people are far more of a conundrum to him. When his neighbor’s poodle is killed and he is falsely accused of the crime, Christopher decides to track down the killer. The mystery leads him into a much larger personal odyssey of finding his place in the world.

### **“Out of My Mind” By Sharon Draper**

Eleven-year-old Melody has a photographic memory. Her head is like a video camera that is always recording. And there’s no delete button. She’s the smartest kid in her whole school-but NO ONE knows it. If only she could speak up, if only she could tell people what she thinks and knows. But she can’t. She can’t talk. She can’t walk. She can’t write. Being stuck inside her head is making Melody go out of her mind-that is, until she discovers something that will allow her to speak for the first time ever. At last Melody has a voice . . . but not everyone around her is ready to hear it.

### **“The Reason I Jump: The Inner Voice of a Thirteen-Year-Old Boy with Autism” By Naoki Higashida**

Written by Naoki Higashida, a very smart, very self-aware, and very charming thirteen year-old boy with Autism, it is a one-of-a-kind memoir that demonstrates how person with Autism thinks, feels, perceives, and responds in ways few of us can imagine. Parents and family members who never thought they could get inside the head of their autistic loved one at last have a way to break through to the curious, subtle, and complex life within.