

Annotated Bibliography

Learning Disability in Reading

Bauer, J. (2012). *Close to famous*. New York: Scholastic. (Grades 4-8)



Close to Famous, by Joan Bauer

12-year-old Foster McKee has a dream of having her very own TV cooking show – and, oh, learning to read, which is a lot harder for her thanks to a learning disability. Foster learns to cook by relying on listening and memory because she couldn't read receipts. She applies this same kind of effort to learning to read. Her hard work and determination are an excellent example of overcoming a disability. She shows that her learning disability does not keep her from being successful and does not stop her from being a chef.

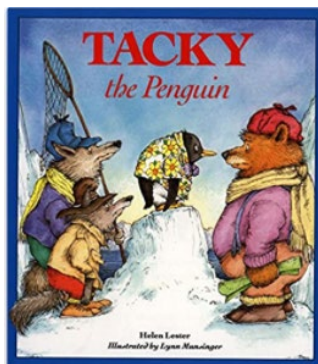
Hunt, L. M. (2015). *Fish in a tree*. New York, NY: Puffin Books. (Grades 6-8)



Fish in a Tree, by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. She covers her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help but her 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. This book is a great example of learning acceptance and not to be defined by a label. It shows how by the help of a dedicated teacher, a student was able to overcome their disability.

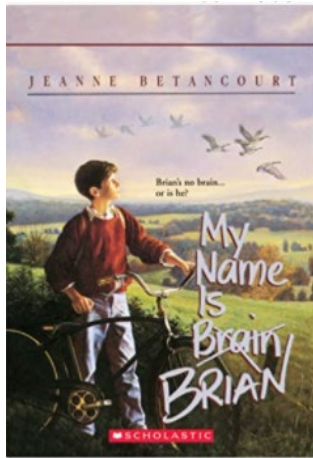
Lester, H. (2010). *Tacky the Penguin*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. (Grades Pre-K-2)



Tacky the Penguin, by Helen Lester

Tacky is an oddball, out-of-the-box thinker struggling to fit in with a colony of perfect penguins and learning how to think positively about his lack of “perfection.” Students with dyslexia get the message early on that there’s more than one way to be, to think, to read and to write. It teaches that differences should be valued and accepted instead of ridiculed. The text is presented in simple easy-to-follow sentences with occasional rhyme and repetition.

Betancourt, J. (1996). *My Name Is Brain Brian*. Scholastic Paperbacks. (Grades 6-8)



My Name is Brain Brian, by Jeanne Betancourt

Brian has always known he has some kind of problem with reading and writing, and he dreads the start of school each year because of it. He struggles with problems that the kids in his class see as clowning around, such as mixing things up and spelling letters backwards. In sixth grade, his teacher sees him write “Brain” instead of “Brian” and steps in to help. This book helps students understand why they think the way that they do and why they struggle with reading and writing and shows that they are not alone.

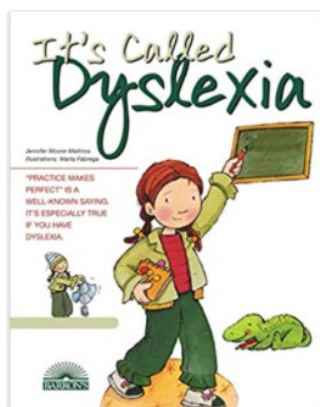
Stone, K. (2021). *Everything is going to be K.O.: An illustrated memoir of living with specific learning difficulties*. London: Anima. (Grades 9-12)



Everything is Going to Be K.O. by Jeanne Betancourt

Kaiya Stone writes about her own experiences of living with specific learning difficulties: from struggling at school to being diagnosed with dyslexia and dyspraxia while at university, to performing her own one-woman stand up show inspired by her journey. It shows her journey from high school through college, which gives the students reading it hope that they can be successful too. Kaiya calls for neurodiversity to be celebrated and stresses that instead of questioning how we are 'supposed' to think we should take pride in our cognitive difference.

Moore-Mallinos, J., & Fàbrega, M. (2014). *It's called dyslexia*. Hong Kong: Active Minds. (Grades Pre-K-3)



It's called Dyslexia, by Jennifer Moore-Mallinos

This book is written from a child's point of view who knows the alphabet, but she sometimes has trouble putting all the letters together to read words. No matter how hard she tries, she often mixes up the letters or writes them backwards. She's unhappy until her teacher explains that she has dyslexia, and that she can be helped to read and write correctly. Following each story are four pages of suggested activities that relate to the book's theme. A final two-page section offers advice to parents. A great source for educators, students AND the parents!