

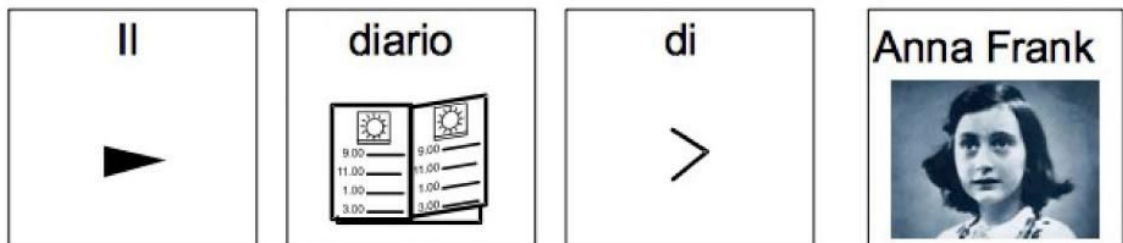
2019 IBBY Selection of Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities



Greetings! I have just returned from presenting the 2019 Selection in Bologna and talking about it non-stop to people visiting the IBBY booth. As many of you know, there is nothing better than talking about the books you love with kindred spirits.

Here are some of the highlights from that collection.

Very often when people talk about books for people with disabilities, they are thinking about children or teens who are blind or in a wheelchair. However, I am excited by a movement in Europe to provide literature for young people with intellectual disabilities: Inclusion Europe (<https://inclusion-international.org/europe/>) and Easy-to-Read Europe (<https://easy-to-read.eu/>) These organizations believe that people with intellectual disabilities have the right to get information that is easy to read and understand.



Frank, Anne (original text); Coop. Accaparlante Assoc.; Arca-Comunità L'Arcobaleneo onlus (adapted text). *Il diario di Anna Frank*. (The Diary of Anne Frank) Molfetta, Bari, Italy: Ed. La meridiana, 2017 [96pp.] ISBN 978-88-615-3632-8

An amazing example is The Diary of Anne Frank from Italy. Written in Picture Communication Symbols (Widget Software) and in simplified text, the diary has been interpreted and abridged to 20 entries, which works for people with intellectual disabilities as well as for refugees for whom Italian is a second language.

Burcaw, Shane (text); Carr, Matt (phot.) *Not So Different: What You Really Want to Ask About Having a Disability.* New York, NY, USA: Roaring Brook Press, 2017 [40pp.] ISBN 978-1-62-672771-7

We all know how children blurt out questions when they see someone who is different from them. Shane Burcaw, a U.S. writer with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, uses those kinds of candid questions to present information in a hilarious light-hearted way. A great nonfiction book for grades 4-6.

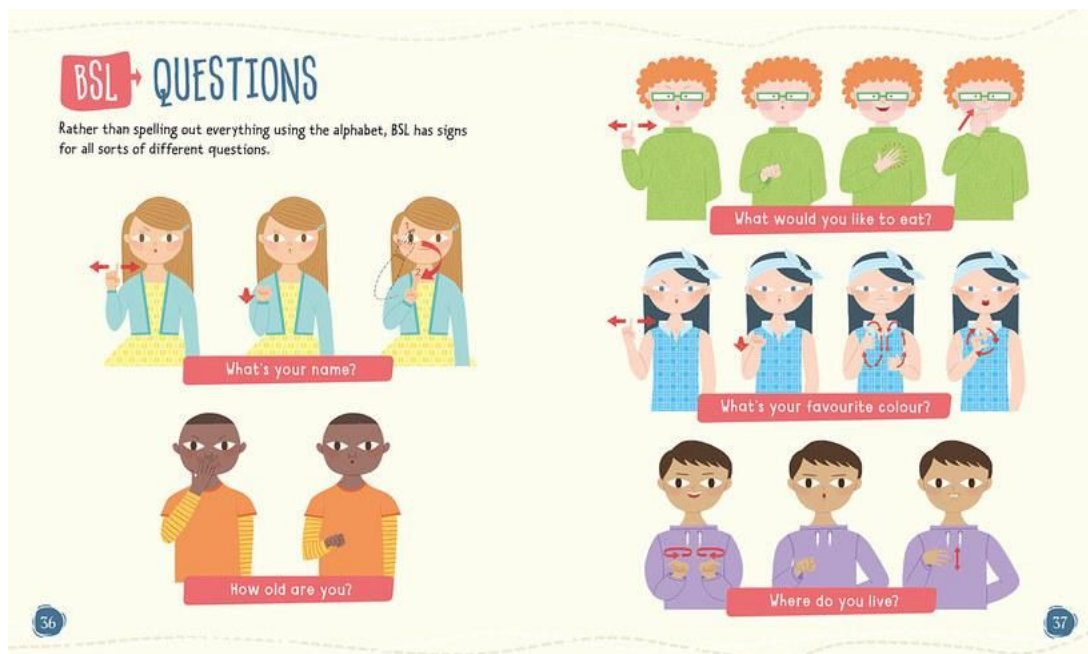


Tactile books are the stars of our collection. Everyone, no matter what their age or ability, loves to touch the books. We had 4 books in the 2019 selection, but I loved the inclusive story of the *Four Little Corners of Nothing at All*. Little Square wants to visit his little circle friends at their house, but he cannot get in their circular doorway. What to do? He tries folding, stretching, even imagining himself as a circle, but nothing works. What can the circles do? They could cut his corners so that he becomes a circle, but wait...why not cut the door instead?



Ruillier, Jérôme (text and ill.). *Quatre petits coins de rien du tout* (Four little corners of nothing at all). Talant, France: Les Doigts Qui Rêvent, 2017 [17pp.] ISBN 978-2-36593-070-3

Though most of the books in the IBBY Collection for Young People with Disabilities are picture books and fiction, this was another example from the UK, soon to be distributed in the US, which was written by a young deaf girl and her deaf parents. Ava is proud to be deaf, and like many, does not consider deafness a disability. Colourful and multicultural, the book will satisfy curiosity of children in grades 3-5 who want to know how to manage without hearing. Images in British Sign Language.



Beese, Ava, Lilli, and Nick (text); Martí, Romina (ill.); Jordan, James (phot.). *Proud to Be Deaf: Discover My Community and My Language* London, UK: Wayland/Hachette Children's Group, 2017 [48pp.] ISBN 978-1-5263-0218-2

In addition to Shane Burcaw's book listed above, *Not so Different: What You Really Want to Ask About Having a Disability*, the other US books chosen as outstanding in the 2019 selection were:

Bryant, Jen (text) Kulikov, Boris (ill.) *Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille*. New York, NY, USA: Alfred A. Knopf, Random House Children's Books 2016 [36pp.] ISBN 978-0-449-81337-9;

Kelly, Erin Entrada (text.) *Hello, Universe*. New York, NY, USA: Greenwillow/HarperCollins, 2018 [320pp.] ISBN 978-0-06-241415-1

Readers may also want to discover other outstanding novels selected in English, such as: *On the Spectrum* by Jennifer Gold; *Macy McMillan and the Rainbow Goddess* by Shari Green; *The State of Grace* by Rachael Lucas; *Optimists Die First* by Susin Nielsen; *Caterpillars Can't Swim* by Liane Shaw.

Perhaps this has whetted your appetite to learn more about the 2019 IBBY Selection.



Download English annotations of the 40 multilingual books chosen as outstanding in 2019 Selection at www.tpl.ca/ibby

Come see the books on tour! They will be at the USBBY Regional Conference in Texas. The two touring collections are off now for the next two years visiting libraries, centres for people with disabilities and many other venues such as Italy, UK, Ireland, Japan, Slovakia. And if you go to the next IBBY Congress in Moscow, you will be able to explore them there!

Or write me at ibby@torontopubliclibrary.ca and set up a visit to the North York Central Library Children's Department in the Toronto Public Library system, in Toronto, Canada. We would love to have you!