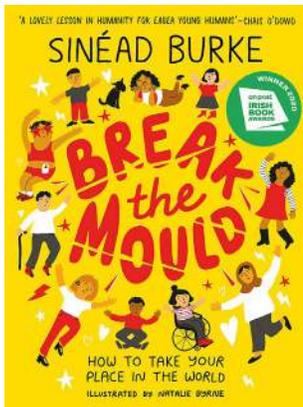




Books About Inclusion and Diversity for Children and Youth

This is a list of books that have diverse characters and stories and talk about differences. This list is not exhaustive, nor are all the books on this list perfect. This is just a starting point. We encourage you to seek out literature with diverse characters written by diverse voices.

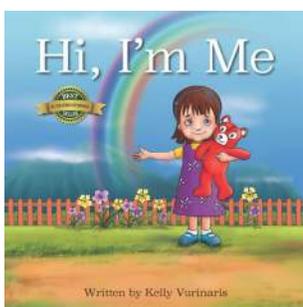


Break the Mould: How to Take your Place in the World

Sinéad Burke

Children's Novel Ages 9-13

"In this empowering guide, Sinéad Burke draws on her own experiences and encourages young readers to believe in themselves, have pride in who they are and use their voice to make the world a fairer, more inclusive place. From the power of being different, to celebrating the things you love about yourself and helping others do the same, this is a brilliantly inspirational handbook for breaking the mould and finding your place in the world."

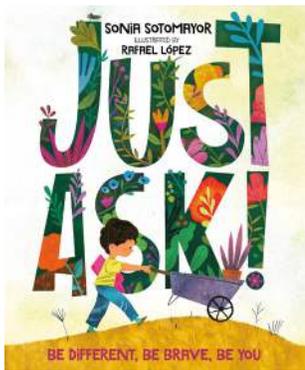


Hi, I'm Me

Kelly Vurinaris

Children's Picture Book Ages 3-6

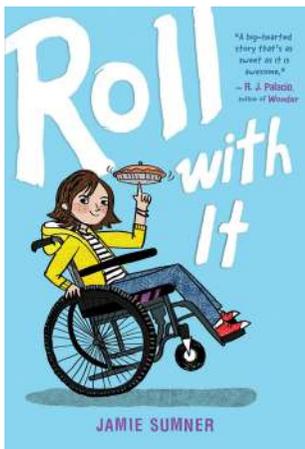
"In this heart-warming tale about a mother and daughter, first-time author Kelly Vurinaris captures the beauty in human differences. She takes the reader through everyday experiences in the life of Chloe, a little girl with facial differences. Since she's been going out into the world, Chloe notices people staring at her. To connect with others and break down initial barriers, she quickly discovers that she just needs to introduce herself. With one simple phrase, she is creating inclusivity and changing the world, one face at a time. With her mom's guidance, Chloe learns that although she may look different, all differences are beautiful. This is a book that builds confidence in our children without them understanding what confidence is. It helps kids identify that being different is okay, and that we are all people. It is the perfect story for parents or teachers who want to teach children about inclusivity, and how everyone has equal value no matter how they look."



Just Ask! Sonia Sotomayor

Children's Picture Book Ages 4-8

"In this warm and inclusive story by US Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, inspired by her own childhood diagnosis of diabetes, readers join along as differently abled kids use their strengths to work together and learn about each other. With vibrant and engaging art by Rafael Lopez, this book shows us that differences are wonderful – and that all you have to do when you don't understand something is just ask!"

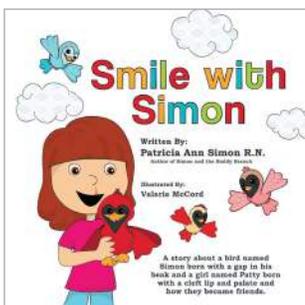


Roll With It Jamie Sumner

Children's Novel Ages 10+

"Ellie's a girl who tells it like it is. That surprises some people, who see a kid in a wheelchair and think she's going to be all sunshine and cuddles. The thing is, Ellie has big dreams: She might be eating Stouffer's for dinner, but one day she's going to be a professional baker. If she's not writing fan letters to her favorite celebrity chefs, she's practicing recipes on her well-meaning, if overworked, mother.

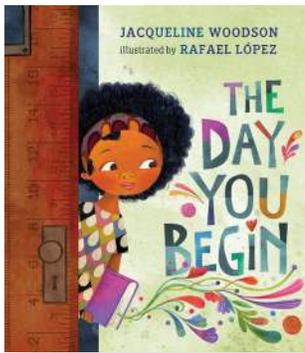
But when Ellie and her mom move so they can help take care of her ailing grandpa, Ellie has to start all over again in a new town at a new school. Except she's not just the new kid—she's the new kid in the wheelchair who lives in the trailer park on the wrong side of town. It all feels like one challenge too many, until Ellie starts to make her first-ever friends. Now she just has to convince her mom that this town might just be the best thing that ever happened to them!"



Smile with Simon series Patricia Ann Simon

Children's Picture Books Ages 2-8

"Simon understands what it's like to be born looking different than others. When he hatched, his beak had a gap, making it difficult for him to eat, smile, and sing. With help from his special friend, Patty, Simon now thrives. One day, Simon spots a sad blue jay sitting in a tree. No one came to Buddy's birthday party because he's different. Simon and Patty gather their friends and make Buddy feel special. They create the Buddy Branch, a place where birds can come when they feel lonely. Simon and the Buddy Branch, a children's picture book, shares a story of love, acceptance, and kindness. It communicates the message it's okay to be different; everyone is beautiful just the way they are."

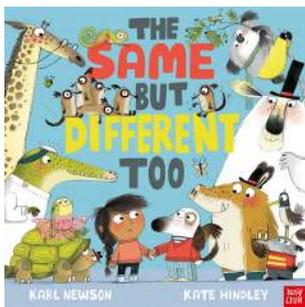


The Day You Begin

Jacqueline Woodson

Children's Picture Book Ages 5-8

"Jacqueline Woodson's lyrical text and Rafael Lopez's dazzling art celebrate the bravery it takes to go forth even when you feel like an outsider. And they remind us that sometimes, when we reach out and begin to share our story, others will be happy to meet us halfway."

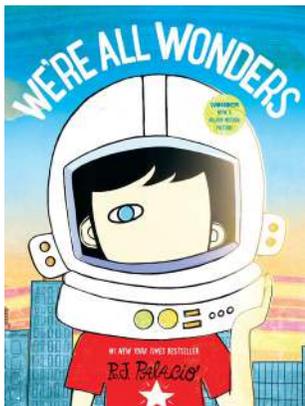


The Same but Different Too

Karl Newson

Children's Picture Book Ages 2-5

"There's something about each of us that makes us special. But while everyone is unique, we all have many things in common as well. Explore the ways that we are all the same but different too, in this joyful and simple celebration of individuality and camaraderie."



We're All Wonders

RJ Palacio

Children's Picture Book Ages 4-8

"Auggie knows he's not an ordinary kid. He does plenty of ordinary things. He feels ordinary. He just doesn't look ordinary. Growing up as an ordinary boy with an extraordinary face isn't easy, but Auggie is a wonder. He and his trusty sidekick, Daisy, play ball, eat ice cream, and use their imaginations to soar through their day together. They know it's not just Auggie who's different. Everyone is different, and everyone is a wonder – if only they could see it. Featuring the beloved hero from the worldwide bestselling sensation Wonder, this original adventure written and illustrated by R.J. Palacio taps into every child's longing to be seen for who they truly are"



Wonder

RJ Palacio

Children's Novel Ages 8-12

"August (Auggie) Pullman was born with a severe facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school.

Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, Auggie wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past his extraordinary face. Wonder begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include the perspectives of his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These voices converge to portray a community as it struggles with differences, and challenges readers, both young and old, to wonder about the true nature of empathy, compassion, acceptance, friendship, and—ultimately—kindness. Auggie is a hero for the ages, one who proves that you can't blend in when you were born to stand out."

**Book descriptions provided by publishers.



A B O U T F A C E®

Who We Are

AboutFace is a national charity and our mission is to cultivate equity and opportunity for individuals with a facial difference through supportive programming, advocacy, and education.

If you would like more information or support, please contact us or visit aboutface.ca.

51 Wolsley Street | Toronto, ON | M5T 1A4

TF 1.800.665.3223 | P 416.597.2229 | F 416.597.8494 | E info@aboutface.ca | aboutface.ca

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