Portrayal of Disabilities in Caldecott Books

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Abstract
The authors read all of the books that received Caldecott Medal and Honor status awarded between 1938 and 2005 and found that 11 included a character with a disability. For each book, they analyzed characterizations of those with disabilities and generated tips for using the book to teach about disabilities. They argue that accurate portrayals of characters with disabilities, particularly the types of disabilities encountered most frequently by young children, are needed in award-winning picture books.

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Historical background of disabilities. Younger students can read picture books about characters who overcome obstacles. Older students can read about protagonists who have disabilities in fiction genres. Another option is to learn about and from real people with disabilities who turned things around by maximizing their potential and maintaining positive attitudes. Reprinted from Embracing Disabilities in the Classroom: Strategies to Maximize Students' Assets, by Toby J. Karten. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, www.corwinpress.com. Reproduction authorized only for the school site or nonprofit organization that has purchased this book. 14. INTRODUCING DISABILITIES.