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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ongoing process throughout the course. Examples should be given as to how disability is created and maintained in society by barriers. Images, language and media portrayals could be examined with ‘positive’ alternatives presented. Every negative.