Portrayal of Disabilities in Caldecott Books

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Keywords
Caldecott Award, characterization, character portrayal, picture books, stereotypes

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.

Original Publication Citation

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
Dyches, Tina; Prater, Mary Anne; and Jenson, Jennifer, "Portrayal of Disabilities in Caldecott Books" (2006). All Faculty Publications. 1551.
https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/facpub/1551

Document Type
Peer-Reviewed Article

Publication Date
2006-5

Permanent URL
http://hdl.lib.byu.edu/1877/3468

Publisher
TEACHING Exceptional Children Plus

Language
English

College
David O. McKay School of Education

Department
Counseling Psychology and Special Education

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Caldecott books. 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 more. 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. 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.