

## **Schneider Family Book Award Winners 2012-2022**

(Award goes back to 2004)

The Schneider Family Book Awards are given annually in each of the following categories: birth through grade school (age 0-10), middle school (age 11-13) and teens (age 13-18) to an author or illustrator for a book that embodies an artistic expression of the disability experience for child and adolescent audiences.

[https://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/awards/1/all\\_years](https://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/awards/1/all_years)

### **2022**

#### Children

MY CITY SPEAKS written by Darren Lebeuf, illustrated by Ashley Barron  
DB 106712

A little girl who is blind explores the city she loves on the way to her recital. Schneider Family Book Award. For preschool-grade 2. 2021.

#### Middle Grades

A FACE FOR PICASSO: COMING OF AGE WITH CROUZON SYNDROME by  
Ariel Henley  
DB 106407

Ariel Henley recounts her own and her twin sister's experience living with Crouzon syndrome, a rare condition where the bones in the head fuse prematurely. Henley discusses the surgeries, the strength and resilience needed while dealing with the emotional toll of navigating life with a facial disfigurement. Unrated. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2021.

#### Teens

WORDS IN MY HANDS written and illustrated by Asphyxia  
DB 106281

Organicore, a company that produces perfectly balanced synthetic meals, replaces wild food. But sixteen-year-old Piper McBride, who is deaf, begins to wonder if natural food is as dangerous as Organicore's propaganda says. Schneider Family Book Award. Some violence, some strong language, and some descriptions of sex. For senior high and older readers. 2020.

## **2021**

### Children

I TALK LIKE A RIVER written by Jordan Scott, illustrated by Sydney Smith  
DB 101830 BR 23736

When a child has a "bad speech day" at school, his father gives him a new perspective on his stuttering. Commercial audiobook. For grades K-3. 2020.

### Middle Grades

SHOW ME A SIGN by Ann Clare LeZotte  
DB 102083 and BR 23598

1805. Mary Lambert has always felt safe among the deaf community of Chilmark on Martha's Vineyard where practically everyone communicates in a shared sign language. But a scientist determined to discover the origins of the islands' widespread deafness decides that she makes the perfect live specimen—and kidnaps her. For grades 4-7. 2021.

### Teens

THIS IS MY BRAIN IN LOVE written by I.W. Gregorio  
DB 101776

Rising high school juniors Jocelyn Wu and Will Domenici fall in love while trying to save the Wu family restaurant, A-Plus Chinese Garden. Meanwhile, mental health issues and family prejudices threaten their budding romance. Strong language and some descriptions of sex. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2020.

## **2020**

### Children

A FRIEND FOR HENRY by Jenn Bailey, illustrated by Mika Song  
Not yet in NLS

### Middle Grades

SONG FOR A WHALE by Lynne Kelly  
DB 94077 and BR 22668

Twelve-year-old Iris and her grandmother, who are both deaf, drive from Texas to Alaska armed with Iris's plan to help Blue 55, a whale unable to communicate with other whales. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7. 2019.

## Teens

CURESED by Karol Ruth Silverstein

DB 97369 and BR 23837 (in process)

Fourteen-year-old Erica "Ricky" Bloom struggles with her recent chronic illness diagnosis, which comes amid family upheaval and challenges at a new school. Strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2019.

## 2019

### Children

RESCUE & JESSICA: A LIFE-CHANGING FRIENDSHIP written by Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes, illustrated by Scott Magoon

DB 90933 and BR 22046

When he is paired with a girl who has lost her legs, Rescue worries that he isn't up to the task of being her service dog. Based on the true story of Rescue and Jessica Kensky, who was injured in the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing. For grades K-3. 2018

### Middle Grades

THE TRUTH AS TOLD BY MASON BUTTLE by Leslie Connor

DB 92524 and BR 22555

As he grieves his best friend Benny's death, Mason and his friend Calvin, who are targeted by the neighborhood bullies, create an underground haven for themselves. But when Calvin goes missing, Mason finds himself in trouble. Commercial audiobook. For grades 5-8. 2018.

## Teens

(DON'T) CALL ME CRAZY: 33 VOICES STAR THE CONVERSAION ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH edited by Kelly Jensen

DB 93515 and BR 22576

Deeply personal essays from notable authors, athletes, artists, and actors that illuminate mental health topics. The collection explores personal experiences with mental illness and how one should talk about mental health, and advocates for public awareness and acceptance. Some strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2018.

## 2018

### Children

SILENT DAYS, SILENT DREAMS written and illustrated by Allen Say

DB 87965 and BR 22037

An imagined biography of James Castle—a deaf, autistic artist—whose exceptional talent was recognized later in life. Despite mistreatment and being misunderstood, James presents his personal view of the world

through art that now hangs in major museums throughout the world. For grades 2-4. 2017.

#### Middle Grades

MACY MCMILLAN AND THE RAINBOW GODDESS by Shari Green  
DB 89907

A novel in verse. Sixth-grader Macy, who is deaf, expects disaster when she is sent to help elderly neighbor Iris pack for a move to an assisted-living home. To her surprise, Iris soon becomes a firm friend who helps Macy face her own major life changes. For grades 4-7. 2017.

#### Teens

YOU'RE WELCOME, UNIVERSE written and illustrated by Whitney Gardner  
DB 89604 and BR 22106

After Julia is expelled from the Kingston School for the Deaf for graffiti, her two moms send her to a suburban school and restrict her access to paint supplies. As her illegal tagging continues, someone begins adding things to her graffiti. Strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2017.

### **2017**

#### Children

SIX DOTS: A STORY OF A YOUNG LOUIS BRAILLE by Jen Bryant,  
illustrated by Boris Kulikov  
DB 86519 and BR 21722

A narrative biography of Louis Braille, who lost his sight as a young child while playing in his father's workshop. After being exposed to coded military messages at the Royal School for the Blind in Paris, Louis invented his own alphabet—a system for writing using six dots. For grades K-3. 2016.

#### Middle Grade

AS BRAVE AS YOU by Jason Reynolds  
DB 84720 and BR 21728

When eleven-year-old Genie and his older brother, Ernie, spend part of their summer vacation in the Virginia countryside with their grandparents, he learns a secret about his grandfather and what it means to be brave. For grades 5-8. 2016.

## Teens

WHEN WE COLLIDED by Emery Lord  
DB 86607 and BR 21729

After the death of his father, seventeen-year-old Jonah struggles to hold his family and their restaurant together. Vivi, a new summer resident in Verona Cove, tempts him with her vibrant personality, but she harbors her own secrets. Some strong language. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2016.

## 2016

### Children

EMMANUEL'S DREAM: THE TRUE STORY OF EMMANUEL OFOSU YEBOAH  
by Laurie Ann Thompson

BR 21066 (Braille only)

Born in Ghana with one deformed leg, Emmanuel was raised to reach for his dreams. He hopped to and from school more than two miles each way, provided for his family, and eventually became a cyclist and activist for people with disabilities. Print/braille. For grades K-3 and older readers. 2015.

### Middle Grades - 2 winners

FISH IN A TREE by Lynda Mullaly Hunt  
DB 80497 and BR 21151

Bullied and moved from different schools, sixth grader Ally creatively distracts anyone from discovering that she has problems reading. But one teacher, Mr. Daniels, helps her understand that she has dyslexia and encourages Ally to understand her feelings in a new way. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7 and older readers. 2015.

THE WAR THAT SAVED MY LIFE by Kimberley Brubaker Bradley  
DB 80472 and BR 20662

A young disabled girl and her brother are evacuated from London to the English countryside during World War II, where they find life to be much sweeter away from their abusive mother. Commercial audiobook. For grades 4-7 and older readers. 2015.

## Teens

THE UNLIKELY HERO OF ROOM 13B by Teresa Toten  
DB 82326 and BR 21201

Adam struggles with his OCD therapy assignments, and his relationship with his divorced parents doesn't help matters. During a session at his OCD support group, however, he falls for fellow member Robyn and

decides to save them both. Some strong language. Commercial audiobook. For senior high and older readers. 2015.

## **2015**

### Children

A BOY AND A JAGUAR written by Alan Rabinowitz, illustrated by Catia Chien

DB 82083 and BR 21015

Autobiography of a wildcat conservationist. Author discusses his lifelong struggle with stuttering and how his love of animals helped him learn to communicate better, propelling him into a career in wildlife advocacy. Schneider Family Book Award. For grades 2-4. 2014.

### Middle Grades

RAIN REIGN by Ann M. Martin

DB 79921 and BR 20539

Living with Asperger's, Rose shares a bond with her beloved dog. But when the dog goes missing during a storm, Rose is forced to the limits of her comfort zone—which may mean leaving her routines in order to search for her pet. For grades 4-7 and older readers. 2014.

### Teens

GIRLS LIKE US by Gail Giles

DB 80270 and BR 20605

Graduates of their school's special-education program, Quincy and Bidy are placed together in their first independent apartment and begin new jobs. Their adult status comes with challenges, but they find common ground and discover a strong friendship. Some violence and some strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2014.

## **2014**

### Children

A SPLASH OF RED: THE LIFE AND ART OF HORACE PIPPIN written by Jen Bryant, illustrated by Melissa Sweet

DB 78033 and BR 20564

Biography of self-taught African American folk artist Horace Pippin (1888-1946). Describes Pippin's childhood in Pennsylvania and New York, the combat injury that threatened to end his career, his struggle to learn to paint again, and the widespread fame he achieved. Schneider Family Award. For grades K-3 and older readers. 2013.

## Middle Grades

HANDBOOK FOR DRAGON SLAYERS by Merrie Haskel  
DB 77878 and BR 20379

While visiting a neighboring noble to assist him with his tax records, reluctant Princess Matilda is kidnapped by her cousin in a plot to steal her lands. Matilda's crush Parz and handmaiden Judith rescue her, and the trio go on the run—and learn dragon slaying. Schneider Family Award. For grades 5-8. 2013.

## Teens

ROSE UNDER FIRE by Elizabeth Wein  
DB 77415 and BR 20262

After a daring flight maneuver, young American pilot Rose Justice is captured by Nazis and sent to Ravensbruck, a notorious women's concentration camp. Rose's fellow prisoners help her to keep hope alive. COMPANION TO CODE NAME VERITY (DB 75966). Violence and strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2013.

## **2013**

### Children

BACK TO FRONT AND UPSIDE DOWN! written and illustrated by Claire Alexander

BR 20026 (Braille only)

Stan is excited about making a birthday card for his school principal—until he tries to write a message. For Stan, letters come out back to front and upside down. But a friend convinces him to be brave and ask for help. Print/braille. For preschool-grade 2. Schneider Family Book Award. 2012.

## Middle Grades

A DOG CALLED HOMELESS by Sarah Lean  
DB 75450 and BR 19594

Fifth-grader Cally, who stopped talking for a day as part of a contest at school, continues her silence. But visions of her deceased mother; a new friendship with Sam, a deaf-blind boy; and the appearance of a huge dog keep her communicating. For grades 3-6. 2012.

## Teens

SOMEBODY, PLEASE TELL ME WHO I AM by Harry Mazer and Peter Lerangis  
DB 75328 and BR 19579

When Ben delays college to enlist in the army reserve, his family, girlfriend, and best friend are shocked. After deployment to Iraq Ben returns home with a traumatic brain injury and finds nothing is the same. Some violence and some strong language. For senior high and older readers. 2012.

## **2012**

Children - none this year

Middle Grades- 2 Winners

CLOSE TO FAMOUS by Joan Bauer

DB 73023 and BR 19473

After escaping her mother's abusive boyfriend, twelve-year-old Foster McFee and her mother make a new start in Culpepper, West Virginia. Her mom wants to be a lead singer, while Foster dreams of becoming a famous TV chef—and of mastering reading, despite her learning disability. For grades 5-8. 2011.

WONDERSTRUCK: A NOVEL IN WORDS AND PICTURES by Brian Selznick  
DB 74157

After the death of his mother, Ben, who is deaf, travels to New York City's American Museum of Natural History, where he hopes to find his father. While searching he makes an incredible discovery. For grades 4-7 and older readers. Schneider Award. 2011.

Teens

THE RUNNING DREAM by Wendelin Van Draanen

DB 73998 and BR 19489

After a school-bus accident, sixteen-year-old Jessica has her right leg amputated below the knee and is convinced she will never run again. But prosthetics, a new friend with cerebral palsy, and the support of her track team help Jessica find a way forward. For junior and senior high readers. Schneider Award. 2011.