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

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  

**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 Biddy 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.