

The LUNA Project

Book Review

In this task you will read or watch something from our list which contain characters with disabilities.

Instructions

- Read or watch one of the books/ films
- Summarise what it was about
- What did you like/ didn't like - consider some of the questions below
- Send us your review, this could be in the form of a video, in writing, a drawing or any other way you'd like to present it. We will publish any reviews that we receive on our website.

Some questions to think about

What was good/ bad about how those around the character with a disability interacted with them?

What challenges did the character face?

How could things have been made easier for the character?

How was friendship portrayed in the book?

Why is representation important?

How was disability/ chronic health conditions presented?

Apart from disability/ chronic health conditions, what were some key themes, how were these explored?

What topics would you like to find out more about?

Books (most available on audible should you prefer to listen rather than read)

The Christmasasaurus by Tom Fletcher

Age range - 8- 11yrs

This story is about a boy named William and on Christmas Eve he meets a dinosaur and they go on a magical adventure together. William starts to discover what he really wants and what is really possible. William is a wheelchair user and this book is a great step in representing disability.

The Reason I Jump by Naoki Higashida and David Mitchell

Age range - 12 upwards

The Reason I Jump is written by a 13 year old boy with Autism, written using an alphabet grid to communicate as he usually doesn't talk. Through people asking him questions, he talks about his feelings, actions and how it feels to have Autism.

Katy by Jaqueline Wilson

Age range - 8-12yrs

This is a retelling of the book 'What Katy Did' , and it follows the story of Katy, an adventurous child who then has a bad accident. The story then goes through how Katy copes with this and the friendships she makes along the way. Available as a CBBC drama.

Wonder by R.J Palacio

Age range- 10-15yrs

Auggie is 13. He likes spaceships, science and lives with his mum, dad and sister. Auggie also has a facial difference that can make him stand out a bit. He has always been homeschooled however now, for the first time he is entering into mainstream school. The book follows his journey through a number of different perspectives and his struggles and his triumphs as he tries to fit in and make friends. Also available as a film.

Ways to Live Forever by Sally Nicholls

Age range - 10-13

Sam is 11 and has Leukaemia (a type of cancer). He is a typical 11 year old in his interest in girls, UFOs but he also wants to know the answers with to his questions about his illness. Written as a collection of diary entries, lists, facts and drawings this book tells Sam's story and his relationship with his friends and family.

The Black Book of Colours by Menena Cottin

Age range - any

Told by a young boy named Thomas this book helps sighted people to understand what the world, and particularly colour is like for blind people. The book is entirely in blacks and greys and has braille and other sensory methods to allow people to experience the world in a different way.

Out of My Mind by Sharon M. Draper

Age - 12-14

Melody has cerebral palsy which means that she can't walk or talk. However, she is really smart even if people don't think that she is. She has an incredible memory and she wants to let people know this and that she is not defined by her cerebral palsy.

Extra- ordinary by Miriam Spitzer Franklin

Age 10-14

Pansy and Anna are best friends. Anna is outgoing and confident whereas Pansy is shy. One summer only Anna goes to summer camp as Pansy is too scared to go. Whilst she is there Anna gets meningitis and she hasn't been the same since. When Pansy finds out that Anna is getting surgery, Pansy decides to step up and become a better friend to Anna.

A Kind of Spark by Elle McNicoll

Age 11+

Addie is from a Scottish town which has a history of witch trials. Addie becomes interested in their story and begins to campaign for a memorial for the witches which

pushes her to edge of her comfort zone, particularly as she has autism so this is something she usually finds tricky. Addie wants to change how the people in the town view and accept her.

The Blinding Light by Renae Kaye

Jake cares for his sister and his mother but due to sometimes 'not thinking before acting' he has been unable to hold down a job. This results in his appointment as a support worker for a blind man, Patrick, his age. Quickly they build a strong bond, stronger than Jake would have imagined. However soon he ends up having to try and choose between Patrick and his family.

The Running Dream by Wendelin Van Draanen

Age - 12-14

Jessica loves running, she is county champion and it's what she wants to do with her life. When she is hit by a car and loses her leg she thinks that her life is over. She begins to be tutored by a girl named Rosa who has cerebral palsy and who Jessica has previously been mean to. However now she feels like Rosa is one of the only people who understands. When she first starts with the idea of being able to run with a prosthetic she is determined to take Rosa with her.

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Age - 10+

Mary Lennox is a orphan, returning to her uncle's stately home in Yorkshire following the loss of both of her parents in India. The house is full of secrets and tragedy. One day Mary finds a Secret Garden who she plans on sharing with her new friend Colin, her cousin who has been unable to walk since an accident many years ago.

Reasons to Stay Alive by Matt Haig

Age range - 14+

Written by Matt Haig about his experiences with depression and how he has learnt to live and cherish life with it and make the most out of his life. It is also about what he wishes people knew and understood about depression. "I wrote this book because the oldest cliches remain the truest. Time heals. The bottom of the valley never

provides the clearest view. The tunnel does have light at the end of it, even if we haven't been able to see it.”

All the light we cannot see by Anthony Doerr

Age range - 14+

This book is set in World War 2 and tells the story of two different individuals whose paths eventually cross. 12 year old Marie- Laure lives in Paris till it is occupied by the Nazis. She and her father are forced to leave and hide. As Marie-Laure is blind she experiences this turmoil in a unique way. Werner Pfennig is a German soldier who is recruited to track down the resistance through the radio

Far from the tree by Andrew Solomon

Age range - 14+

In this non-fiction book Andrew Solomon explores different instances where a parent's child is perhaps different to themselves. This includes a variety of chapters, not just on topics such as on hearing loss and disability but also homosexuality, transgender and mental health issues. He provides a great insight into these communities and raises lots of issues which are important to different groups. This is a really great book for gaining a deeper understanding of a huge range of topics.

To Kill a Mockingbird - Harper Lee

Age range - 14+

This is a classic story set in the south of America in the early 1930s. Through the eyes of eight year old Scout, it tells the story of a black man accused of a crime he says he didn't commit. The trial has huge impacts on this small town. One character is 'Boo' Radley, who Scout and her brother Jem become obsessed with, although he is never in public. The book also contains one of our favourite quotes here at Team LUNA – “You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view, until you climb into their skin and walk around in it.”

The Giants House by Elizabeth McCracken

Age 14+

A book set in Cape Cod that tells the story of the unlikely friendship between a young librarian who feels both love and life has passed her by, and the tallest man in the world. Both of them feel they are misfits in the world and over the years their friendship develops into something more.