

A LUNA Resource on Diversifying Your Bookshelf- 10 reads that amplify the voices of disabled/chronically ill individuals

Disability Visibility- Alice Wong

Disability Visibility is home to an incredible collection of first-person pieces exploring both the joys and challenges of the modern disability experience.

The collection brings together a wide array of people: activists, authors, lawyers, politicians, artists, and everyday people with unique experiences to share.

Some of the contributions tackle some challenging themes so be mindful of the content warnings before reading each chapter.

Girl in the Window- Penny Joelson

Kasia has M.E. and is mainly housebound as a result. She passes time observing her street from her bedroom window, nothing out of the ordinary ever happens- until one day.

Kasia sees what she thinks is a kidnapping but she wasn't the only one who witnessed it. So did the girl in the window across the street. When she approaches the neighbours she is told there is no girl living there- can she trust her own eyes?

Witness the story unfold as Kasia tries to uncover the truth, whilst trying to navigate the very unpredictable nature of ME. From pacing to relapses and mobility aids it gives an incredibly accurate insight into life with ME.

Can You See Me? & Do You Know Me?- Libby Scott & Rebecca Westcott

This duology draws upon own voice experience as it was co written by a young girl with autism. Throughout the course of the novels we follow Tally as she starts secondary school. You are given an insightful and honest recount of her struggles and triumphs as she navigates this testing time of change.

The books are punctuated with Tally's Autism Facts which give explanations about why someone with autism may display certain behaviours. Which may help peers to understand on a deeper level

Speechless- Kate Darbishire

Eleven year old Harriet has just started secondary school, she is subjected to daily ridicule which makes making new friends hard enough. But for Harriet things are complicated by the fact she has Cerebral Palsy.

She is a wheelchair user and is unable to talk. For someone who has a lot to say this is frustrating. Fiery, determined Harriet becomes even more independent when her Grandmother has to look after her and her older brother Jake.

Without parents around Jake begins to act strange, Harriet notices and knows he's in trouble but what can she do when her Grandmother is too busy worrying about nail polish to care?

Sitting Pretty- Rebekah Taussig

Sitting Pretty is a memoir, taking the form of multiple essays by disability advocate Rebekah Taussig. She writes diligently, processing a lifetime of memories growing up as a disabled person in the 90s. Highlighting how perceptions of disability have shifted throughout this time.

Rebekah reflects on a large variety of topics from the deep rooted ableism in everyday life, living both independently and dependently to the complications of kindness and charity, All of which are part of the disabled experience. Disability impacts all of us in one way or another and it's time that we championed disabled voices in society.

Unbroken- Marieke Nijkamp

Unbroken is home to 13 stories starring disabled teens. The anthology explores the theme of disability in fictional tales told from the perspective of disabled characters, written by disabled authors.

The stories fall into various genres touching on first loves, friendship, travel and war. This anthology offers readers an insight into the lives of disabled people throughout history and in the present day.

How We Roll- Natasha Friend

Quinn loves nothing more than basketball but her diagnosis of alopecia knocks her confidence, when all her friends distance themselves. Nick was once a star football player but a freak accident, caused by his brother, costs him both of his legs.

An unlikely friendship? Yes. But with each other at their sides they both start to rediscover their confidence and believe in their abilities. One day at a time.

Illustrating the power of having a friend with a little insight into what you are going through even if it's not the exact same circumstance.

Things the Eye Can't See- Penny Joelson

A boy who has been absent from school for months asks Libby to deliver a message to his mate. This message drags Libby into a complicated mystery, but no one believes she will be able to help solve it.

Libby is visually impaired and a keen photographer. Her parents worry about her but Libby wishes she could be more independent . With guide dog Samson and new friend Kyle at her side Libby gets stuck into solving the mystery- without telling her parents.

What if the mystery can be solved by something the eye can't see?

The Silence Between Us- Alison Gervais

Maya is profoundly deaf and has attended a specialist deaf school throughout all her academic life till now. Her family have moved across the country and she is starting at a hearing high school. Not only does she have to adjust to functioning in a hearing school but also hearing culture, which is particularly frustrating.

When some of the people in her life both deaf and hearing alike ask her to question parts of her deaf identity, Maya stands proudly, never giving in to the naively held view that her deafness is a disadvantage.

Image Description

Slide 1: A pale yellow slide with multicoloured shapes along the bottom edge makes up the background. With the LUNA logo in the top right hand corner. The title of the slide reads “A LUNA Resource on Diversifying Your Bookshelf”. The text below reads “10 reads that amplify the voices of disabled/chronically ill individuals”. Along the bottom edge there are 5 illustrated people: a boy in a wheelchair doing a wheelie, a girl wearing a pink pinafore dress using a cane, a girl using a purple kaye frame walker, a girl running with 1 prosthetic blade and a girl who has vitiligo.

Slide 2: A pale yellow slide with multicoloured shapes along the right hand edge makes up the background. With the LUNA logo in the top right hand corner. The title of the slide reads “Disability Visibility” and the text underneath this says “Collated by Alice Wong”. Underneath in smaller font is says: Disability Visibility is home to an incredible collection of first-person pieces exploring both the joys and challenges of the modern disability experience. The collection brings together a wide array of people: activists, authors, lawyers, politicians, artists, and everyday people with unique experiences to share. Some of the contributions tackle some challenging themes so be mindful of the content warnings before reading each chapter. There is an illustration of a girl wearing a scoliosis brace on the left hand side and one of a boy using crutches in the bottom right corner. In the bottom left corner is an image of the book cover,

Slide 3: A pale yellow slide with multicoloured shapes along the right hand edge makes up the background. With the LUNA logo in the top right hand corner. The title of the slide reads “The Girl in the Window” and the text underneath this says “Penny Joelson”. Underneath in a smaller font it says: Kasia has M.E. and is mainly housebound as a result. She passes time observing her street from her bedroom window, nothing out of the ordinary ever happens- until one day. Kasia sees what she thinks is a kidnapping but she wasn't the only one who witnessed it. So did the girl in the window across the street. When she approaches the neighbours she is told there is no girl living there- can she trust her own eyes? Witness the story unfold as Kasia tries to uncover the truth, whilst trying to navigate the very unpredictable nature of ME. From pacing to relapses and mobility aids it gives an incredibly accurate insight into life with ME. In the left hand

corner is an illustration of a girl asleep on some pillows. On the right hand side is an image of the book cover.

Slide 4: A pale yellow slide with multicoloured shapes along the right hand edge makes up the background. With the LUNA logo in the top right hand corner. The title of the slide reads “Can You See Me? & Do You Know Me?” and the text underneath this says “Libby Scott & Rebecca Westcott”. Underneath in a smaller font it says: This duology draws upon own voice experience as it was co written by a young girl with autism. Throughout the course of the novels we follow Tally as she starts secondary school. You are given an insightful and honest recount of her struggles and triumphs as she navigates this testing time of change. The books are punctuated with Tally's Autism Facts which give explanations about why someone with autism may display certain behaviours. Which may help peers to understand on a deeper level. On the right hand side is an illustration of a head with cogs where the brain would be. In the left hand corner is an image of the book covers.

Slide 5: A pale yellow slide with multicoloured shapes along the right hand edge makes up the background. With the LUNA logo in the top right hand corner. The title of the slide reads “Speechless” and the text underneath this says “Kate Darbishire”. Underneath in a smaller font it says: Eleven year old Harriet has just started secondary school, she is subjected to daily ridicule which makes making new friends hard enough. But for Harriet things are complicated by the fact she has Cerebral Palsy. She is a wheelchair user and is unable to talk. For someone who has a lot to say this is frustrating. Fiery, determined Harriet becomes even more independent when her Grandmother has to look after her and her older brother Jake. Without parents around Jake begins to act strange, Harriet notices and knows he's in trouble but what can she do when her Grandmother is too busy worrying about nail polish to care? On the right hand side is an illustration of a girl using a kaye frame walker, underneath it is a cartoon brain, On the left hand side is an image of the book cover.

Slide 6: A pale yellow slide with multicoloured shapes along the right hand edge makes up the background. With the LUNA logo in the top right hand corner. The title of the slide reads “Sitting Pretty” and the text underneath this says “Rebekah Taussig”. Underneath in a smaller font it says: Sitting Pretty is a memoir, taking the form of multiple essays by disability advocate Rebekah Taussig. She writes diligently, processing a lifetime of memories growing up as a disabled person in the 90s. Highlighting how perceptions of disability have shifted throughout this time. Rebekah reflects on a large variety of topics from the deep rooted ableism in everyday life, living both independently and dependently to the complications of kindness and charity, All of which are part of the disabled experience. Disability impacts all of us in one way or another and it's time that we championed disabled voices in society. On the right hand side is an illustration of a boy in a wheelchair doing a wheelie. On the left hand side is an image of the book cover.

Slide 7: A pale yellow slide with multicoloured shapes along the right hand edge makes up the background. With the LUNA logo in the top right hand corner. The title of the slide reads

“Unforgotten” and the text underneath this says “Marieke Nijkamp”. Underneath in a smaller font it says: Unbroken is home to 13 stories starring disabled teens. The anthology explores the theme of disability in fictional tales told from the perspective of disabled characters, written by disabled authors. The stories fall into various genres touching on first loves, friendship, travel and war. This anthology offers readers an insight into the lives of disabled people throughout history and in the present day. Across the middle of the slide are 3 illustrations of a boy with vitiligo, a girl running with one prosthetic blade and a boy on a skateboard who is a double amputee. On the left hand side is an image of the book cover.

Slide 8: A pale yellow slide with multicoloured shapes along the right hand edge makes up the background. With the LUNA logo in the top right hand corner. The title of the slide reads “How We Roll” and the text underneath this says “Natasha Friend”. Underneath in a smaller font it says: Quinn loves nothing more than basketball but her diagnosis of alopecia knocks her confidence, when all her friends distance themselves. Nick was once a star football player but a freak accident, caused by his brother, costs him both of his legs. An unlikely friendship? Yes. But with each other at their sides they both start to rediscover their confidence and believe in their abilities. One day at a time. Illustrating the power of having a friend with a little insight into what you are going through even if it's not the exact same circumstance. In the bottom right corner is an illustration of a girl who is bald. On the left hand side is an illustration of a boy using crutches who is an amputee, Underneath this in the left hand corner is an image of the book cover.

Slide 9: A pale yellow slide with multicoloured shapes along the right hand edge makes up the background. With the LUNA logo in the top right hand corner. The title of the slide reads “Things the Eye Can't See” and the text underneath this says “Penny Joelson”. Underneath in a smaller font it says: A boy who has been absent from school for months asks Libby to deliver a message to his mate. This message drags Libby into a complicated mystery, but no one believes she will be able to help solve it. Libby is visually impaired and a keen photographer. Her parents worry about her but Libby wishes she could be more independent . With guide dog Samson and new friend Kyle at her side Libby gets stuck into solving the mystery- without telling her parents. What if the mystery can be solved by something the eye can't see? In the bottom right hand corner is an illustration of a man and his guide dog. On the left hand side is an image of the book cover.

Slide 10: A pale yellow slide with multicoloured shapes along the right hand edge makes up the background. With the LUNA logo in the top right hand corner. The title of the slide reads “The Silence Between Us” and the text underneath this says “Alison Gervais”. Underneath in a smaller font it says: Maya is profoundly deaf and has attended a specialist deaf school throughout all her academic life till now. Her family have moved across the country and she is starting at a hearing high school. Not only does she have to adjust to functioning in a hearing school but also hearing culture, which is particularly frustrating. When some of the people in her life both deaf and hearing alike ask her to question parts of her deaf identity, Maya stands proudly, never giving in to the naively held view that her deafness is a disadvantage. In the

bottom left hand corner is an illustration of a boy doing sign language. On the right hand side is an illustration of a girl who is wearing a hijab also doing sign language. Underneath this is an image of the book cover.