

Children's Deaf/HOH Book List (updated 2023)



This starter list is compiled by an audiologist/author, with the goal of helping D/deaf and hard-of-hearing kids find strong characters like themselves in books. Not an exhaustive list. Updated regularly. Free download at: www.rieneal.com

KEY:

♥ Author or Illustrator is Deaf/HoH

👂 Amplification used by character(s)—(HAs = hearing aids; CIs = cochlear implants; BAHA = bone anchored HA)

👋 Signed Language used by character(s)—(ASL, unless otherwise stated)

Picture Books (each section alphabetized by author last name)



Can Bears Ski?, by Raymond Antrabus ♥ (illus: Polly Dunbar). Candlewick (2020). A young bear struggles to understand why adults keep asking him if bears can ski—until he gets hearing aids. 👂 —HAs



Diary of a Hard-of-Hearing Kid, by Isaiah John Baier ♥. Independently published (2018). An 11yo hard-of-hearing boy tells hilarious (illustrated) stories about his real-life adventures with a HA and a CI. 👂 —HA + CI



Jack Signs!, by Karen Hardwicke & Amanda Walker. Avid Language (2022). A deaf boy with hearing aids has frequent tantrums until his mother begins to teach him sign language to express himself. 👋 —BSL 👂 —HAs



Next Door, by Deborah Kerbel (illus: Isaac Liang ♥). Kids Can Press (2023). A Deaf boy and his family make friends with their new Muslim neighbors, even though they don't share a language. Story is wordless. 👋 👂



My Monster Truck Goes Everywhere With Me, by Kathleen Marcath (illus: Issac Liang ♥ & Pardeep Mehra). ASL Picture Books (2020). A little boy takes his monster truck with him everywhere. Teaches ASL signs. 👋



All the Ways I Hear You, by Stephanie Marrufo (illus. Priscila Soares ♥). Ind. published (2019). Introduces characters who use different types of "hearing gear" to help them communicate. 👂 —HAs, CI, BAHA; 👋



Moses (4-book series), by Issac Millman. Farrar Straus & Giroux (1998-2004). A Deaf boy, Moses, teaches his baby sister (and the reader) some ASL while having fun experiences, like going to a concert or the circus. 👋



Mighty Mila (2-book series), by Katie Petruzzello (illus: Nadja Sarell). Mighty Books (2021). Young, spunky Mila is sure she can do everything by herself. Based on a real kid. 👂 —CIs



The Deaf Musicians, by Pete Seeger & Paul Dubois Jacobs (illus: R. Gregory Christie). Putnam (2006). Four musicians who've lost their hearing meet on their way to sign language classes, soon forming a band. 👋



Listen: How Evelyn Glennie, a Deaf Girl, Changed Percussion, by Shannon Stocker (illus: Devon Holzwarth). Dial Books (2022). The story of how a Deaf music prodigy learned to listen with her whole body.

Chapter Books (ages 6-8)



Astrid the Astronaut (4-book series), by Rie Neal (illus: Talitha Shipman). Aladdin/S&S (2022-2023). A plucky 8yo is determined to be the first hard-of-hearing astronaut one day; and for now, to get to Space Camp. 👂 —HAs



Emma Every Day (8-book series), by C.L. Reid ♥ (illus: Elena Aiello). Capstone (2020-2022). 8yo Emma, who is Deaf, uses ASL to communicate as she learns to skate, goes to a party, and other fun things. 👋 👂 —CI

Middle Grade (ages 8-12)



TURBO Racers (2-book series), by Austin Aslan. Harper Collins (2019). A mechanically-savvy boy, who is a CODA, is determined to become a TURBOnaut and race fast, morphing vehicles. 🙌



Harriet Versus the Galaxy, by Samantha Baines ❤️. Knights of Media (2019). A young girl discovers she can understand aliens through her hearing aid. 🗣️ —HA



El Deafo, by Cece Bell ❤️. Harry N. Abrams (2014). A girl learns to view her hearing loss as a superpower when she uses her FM system to help classmates spy on their teacher. (Memoir told as graphic novel.) 🗣️ —HAS



The Baby-Sitters Club (Graphic Novels) #12: Jessi's Secret Language, by Chan Chau & Ann M. Martin. Scholastic Graphix (2022). A hearing girl learns ASL to communicate with her new babysitting charge, who is Deaf. 🙌



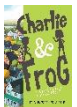
Joss (2-book series), by Erin Falligant. American Girl (2019). Determined to win a surfing contest, a deaf girl agrees to try out for the cheer team, too, so her brother will help her with the surfing video. 🗣️ 🙌



You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P., by Alex Gino. Scholastic (2018). A white, hearing girl grapples her own privilege as a new friend helps her advocate for her deaf baby sister to be raised with ASL. 🙌 🗣️ —HAS



Signs of Survival, by Renee Hartman & Joshua M. Greene. Scholastic NF (2022). Two Jewish sisters, one deaf, one hearing, use sign language to help each other survive a Nazi concentration camp. 🙌 —various signed languages



Charlie & Frog, by Karen Kane. Little, Brown (2019). Charlie, who is hearing, and Frog, who is Deaf, work together to solve the mystery of an old woman who disappears after giving Charlie a desperate message in ASL. 🙌



Hello, Universe, by Erin Entrada Kelly (illus: Isabel Roxas). Greenwillow Books (2017). Unlikely friends band together to defeat a bully and find a boy trapped down a well. 🗣️ —HAS



Song for a Whale, by Lynne Kelly. Yearling (2019). A Deaf STEM genius sets out on a journey to help a whale whose pod can't hear his song, spurred on by her own desire to attend a Deaf school with signing peers. 🙌



Show Me a Sign, by Ann Clare LeZotte ❤️. Scholastic (2020). When a Deaf girl, Mary, is kidnapped from her Deaf island community, she has to figure out how to survive in a hearing world and get home. 🙌 —MVSL



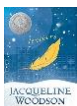
Set Me Free, by Ann Clare LeZotte ❤️. Scholastic (2021). Three years after her kidnapping, Mary returns to the mainland to help solve the mystery surrounding a neglected deaf child. 🙌 —MVSL



Deaf Child Crossing (3-book series), by Marlee Matlin ❤️. S&S Books for Young Readers (2004). Two girls, one Deaf and one hearing, find their friendship is challenged when they go to summer camp together. 🙌



Wonder, by R.J. Palacio. Knopf Books for Young Readers (2012). A 10yo boy with Treacher-Collins Syndrome (a cranio-facial difference) starts attending school for the first time. (DHH rep absent in the movie.) 🗣️ —BAHA



Feathers, by Jacqueline Woodson. Nancy Paulsen Books (2007). A hearing girl learns to see her brother's deafness, among other things, in a new way. 🙌
