

Deaf/HoH Children's Book List (updated 2022)



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



Now Hear This: Harper Soars with her Magic Ears, by Valli Gideons & Harper Gideons 👍 (illus: Priscila Soares 👍). Gatekeeper (2020). Harper tells the reader about her deaf childhood and using a CI. 👂—CIs and HAs



Dad and Me in the Morning, by Patricia Lakin (illus: Robert G. Steele). Albert Whitman & Co. (1994). A deaf boy and his father communicate with various strategies, as shown while they watch the sunrise. 👂—HAs; 👋



Mila Gets Her Super Ears, by Ashley Machovec (illus: Megan Jansen). Ind. published (2020). When hearing becomes more difficult for Mila, she is excited to trade in her hearing aids for cochlear implants. 👂—CIs



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. 👋



The Fastest Girl on Earth!, by Dean Robbins (illus: Elizabeth Baddeley). Alfred A. Knopf (2021). Daredevil Kitty O'Neill (1946-2018) was deaf, but that didn't stop her from breaking world speed records.



Mighty Mila, 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 Sound of All Things, by Myron Uhlberg (illus: Ted Papoulas). Peachtree (2016). The author describes his childhood as a CODA, when his Deaf father would ask him to describe sounds. 👋

Chapter Books (ages 6-8)



Astrid the Astronaut (4-book series), by Rie Neal (illus: Talitha Shipman). Aladdin/S&S (7/2022). 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



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. 🗣️🙌



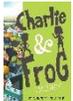
All He Knew, by Helen Frost. Farrar, Straus, & Giroux (2020). During WWII, a deaf boy in the U.S. is institutionalized, until a kind staffperson intervenes. Novel-in-verse; based on a true story. 🙌



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. 🙌



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, by Marlee Matlin 🙌. S&S Books for Young Readers (2004). Two girls, one Deaf and one hearing, become fast friends, but 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



Wonderstruck, by Brian Selznick. Scholastic (2011). Two timelines collide as a newly deafened boy runs away to search for information about his past, and a deaf girl escapes her father's cruel insistence on oralism. 🙌



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. 🙌