

Children's Deaf/HOH Book List (2024)

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 annually. 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)
- 👋 Sign Language used by character(s)—(ASL, unless otherwise stated)

Picture Books (each section alphabetized by author last name)



Cesaria Feels the Beat, by Denise Rosario Adusei (illus: Priscilla Soares ♥). Roaring Book Press (2024). A Deaf girl removes her shoes at a dance performance, despite objections, so she can feel the beat. 👋



Can Bears Ski?, by Raymond Antrobus ♥ (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



Mara Hears in Style, by Terri Clemmons ♥ (illus: Lucy Rogers ♥). Beaming Books (2024). Mara navigates her first day at a new school with her flashy purple hearing aids. 👋 💰 —HAs



Come Over to My House, by Eliza Hull & Sally Rippin (illus: Daniel Gray-Barnett). Bright Light (2023). A cast of friendly disabled or Deaf characters invite the reader over to play.



Sound, Switch, Wonder, by Dr. Christine Ko & Owen Whang ♥ (illus: Katie Crumpton ♥). West Margin Press (2023). A boy with cochlear implants goes about his day, enjoying his ability to turn sound off and on. 💰 —CIs



Monster Hands, by Karen Kane & Jonaz McMillan ♥ (illus: Dion MBD). Nancy Paulsen Books (2024). Two signing friends use their hands to make shadows to scare away a monster under the bed. 👋



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. 👋 💰



Winnie's ASL Adventures: WASH, by Deb Myers ♥ (illus: Julie Bourne ♥). Savory Words (October 2024). Winnie learns different ways to sign "wash" from her gramma. Available at: www.savorywords.com/shop. 👋



Mighty Mila (2-book series), by Katie Petruzzello (illus: Nadja Sarell). Mighty Books (2021, 2024). Young, spunky Mila is sure she can do everything by herself. Based on a real kid. 💰 —CIs



Butterfly on the Wind, by Adam Pottle ♥ (illus: Ziyue Chen ♥). Roaring Brook Press (2024). A Deaf girl with stage fright creates a butterfly using ASL, sending it on a journey around the world to reach others. 👋



Dancing Hands, by Joanna Que ♥ & Charina Marquez ♥ (illus: Fran Alvarez; tr: Karen Llagas). Chronicle Books (2023). Sam's Deaf neighbor, Mai, teaches him Filipino Sign Language. 👋 —FSL



Listening to the Quiet, by Cassie Silva (illus: Frances Ives). Lantana Publishing (2023). A young girl navigates the changes that come with her mama losing her hearing. Inspired by the author's childhood. 👋



Extraordinary Jordyn and her Bionic Ears, by Dr. Jasmine Simmons ♥ (illus: Caryn Marie). Dr. Jasmine Simmons (2024). A young girl overcomes judgment for her hearing aid and cochlear implant. 👋 💰 —HA & CI (bimodal)



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.



I Deaf-initely Can (Rhett the Heeler), by Karlie Waldrip ❤️ (illus: Lucy Rogers ❤️). Katie Waldrip (2024). A deaf Australian Cattle Dog is adopted by a Deaf girl, who teaches him sign language. Based on a true story. 🙋

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 (17-book series), by C.L. Reid ❤️ (illus: Elena Aiello). Capstone (2020-2024). 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 TURBOonaut and race fast, morphing vehicles. 🙋



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



Secrets of Camp Whatever (3-book series), by Chris Grine. Oni Press (2021-2023). A biracial, Latinx, HOH girl is upset about being sent to her dad's old camp, only to find that it's filled with supernatural creatures. 💰 —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



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 (3 books), by Ann Clare LeZotte ❤️. Scholastic (2020-2023). When a Deaf girl is kidnapped from her Deaf island community, she has to figure out how to survive in a hearing world and get home. 🙋 —MVSL



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
