

Disabilities Represented in American Children's Books Today: Case Studies and Lessons to Promote Library Outreach Services for Children with Special Needs

Raymond Pun and Lynn T. Nguyen



IFLA 2018 LSN / CYA



Arne Nixon Center
for the Study of
Children's Literature



National Library Board
Singapore

Hello!

**I am
Ray Pun**



You can find me at
[@raypun101](https://twitter.com/raypun101) / raypun101@gmail.com

**Arne Nixon Center for the
Study of Children's
Literature at Fresno state**



CHESTER'S COLORFUL
EASTER
EGGS

PLEASE SPLASH
SPRING

When will it
be Spring?

DRAGONS
Easter Egg Hunt

It's
SPRING!

and then
it's spring

My Spring Robin

Paris
in the Spring
with Picasso

EASTER
TREAT

LOOK FOR
Easter?



Curator Jennifer Crow



Arne Nixon Center
• for the Study of Children's Literature •

This Presentation Will Focus on Three Themes

INTERSECTIONALITY

In the context of
marginalized
identities: children of
color, LGBTQ+,
disabled,
socioeconomic
disadvantaged

This Presentation Will Focus on Three Themes

INTERSECTIONALITY

In the context of marginalized identities: children of color, LGBTQ+, disabled, socioeconomic disadvantaged

SELF-DEVELOPMENT

and inclusivity: children's books on these issues can bring new perspective on how they reflect and perceive themselves, others and the world

This Presentation Will Focus on Three Themes

INTERSECTIONALITY

In the context of marginalized identities: children of color, LGBTQ+, disabled, socioeconomic disadvantaged

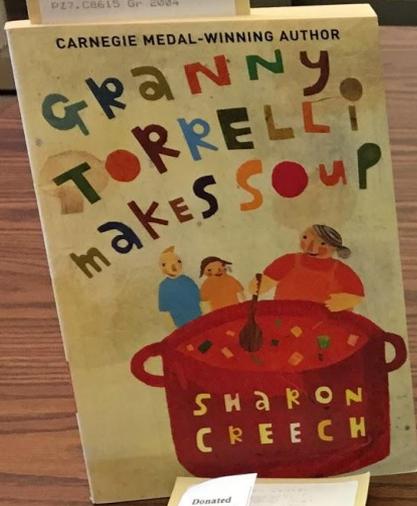
SELF-DEVELOPMENT

and inclusivity: children's books on these issues can bring new perspective on how they reflect and perceive themselves, others and the world

APPLIED SERVICES

Lynn T. Nguyen shares her experiences as a reading machine outreach librarian from County of LAPL

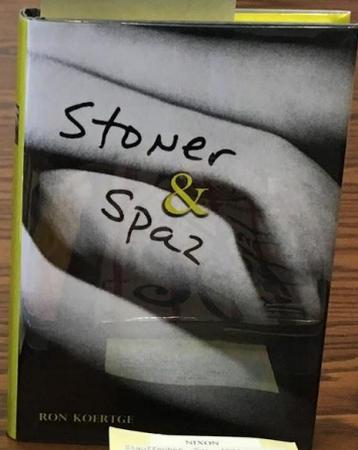
Anne Nixon Center
Creech, Sharon.
Granny Torrelli makes soup
PZ7.C8615 Gr 2004



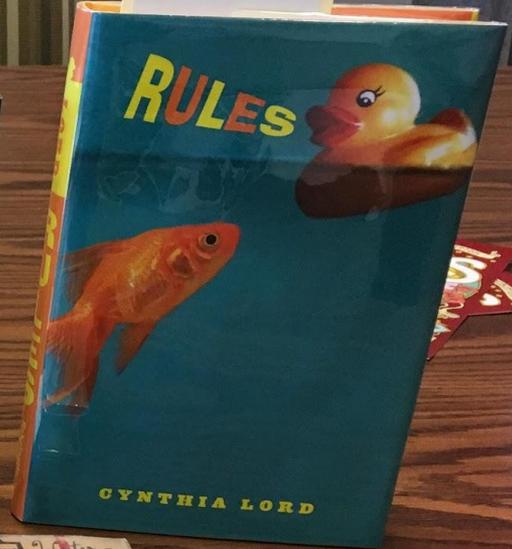
Anne Nixon Center
Mass, Wendy. 1967-
A mango-shaped space : a
novel /
PZ7.M42355 Mas 2003



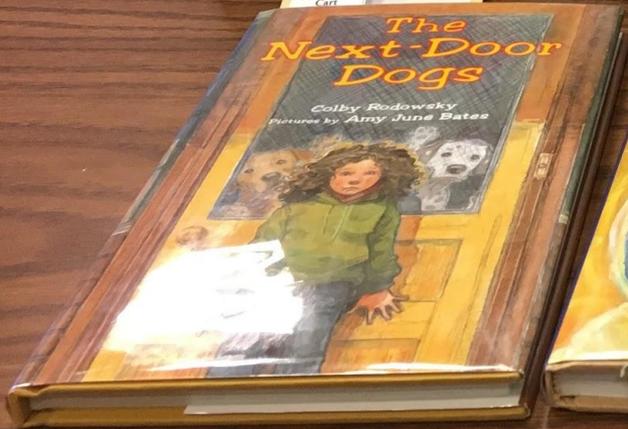
NIXON PZ 7 .K6187 St 2002
Koertge, Ronald
Stoner & Spaz



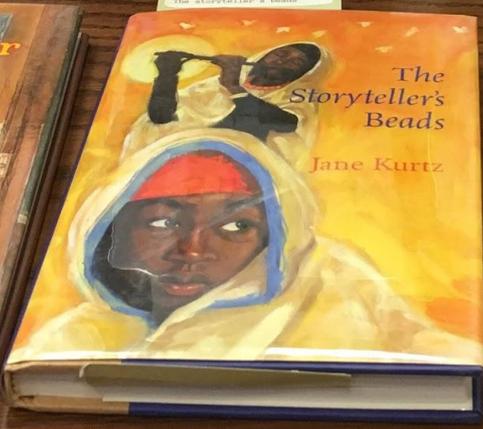
NIXON
Lord, Cynthia
Rules
PZ 7 .L87734 Ru1 2006



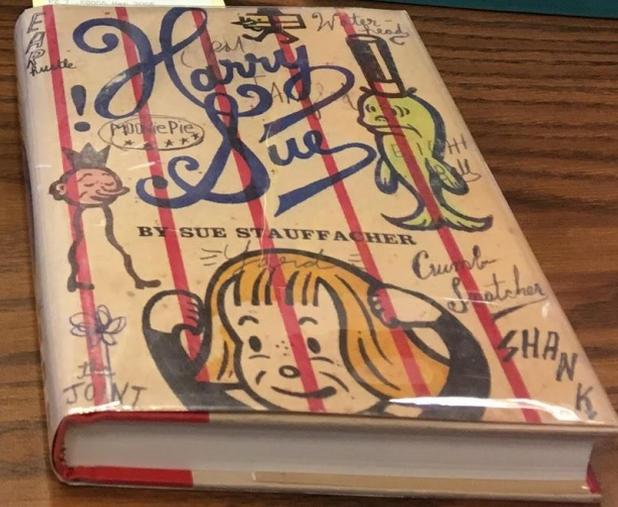
Donated
by Michael
Patt



NIXON PZ 7 .K6187 St 2002
Koertge, Ronald
Stoner & Spaz



NIXON
Lord, Cynthia
Rules
PZ 7 .L87734 Ru1 2006



Disabilities Represented in Children's Books Historically

“During the Victorian era mental disability was rarely shown in children's literature, while physical disability was frequently portrayed as a form of necessary suffering, or as a way of proving a character's essential goodness.”

“Sometimes a temporary period of disability was used as a way of developing a child's character; in 19th-century novels the child usually became a better person as a result of his/her suffering...”

Agnew, K., & Partridge, J. (2001). disability in children's books. In V. Watson (Ed.), *The Cambridge guide to children's books in English*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Disabilities Represented in Children's Books Historically

“Towards the end of the 20th century there is an increasing tendency to portray disability less simplistically and with more thought for the reactions of a disabled reader, often showing how well children can cope with disability without denying the difficulty they face.”

Agnew, K., & Partridge, J. (2001). disability in children's books. In V. Watson (Ed.), *The Cambridge guide to children's books in English*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.



1.

INTERSECTIONALITY

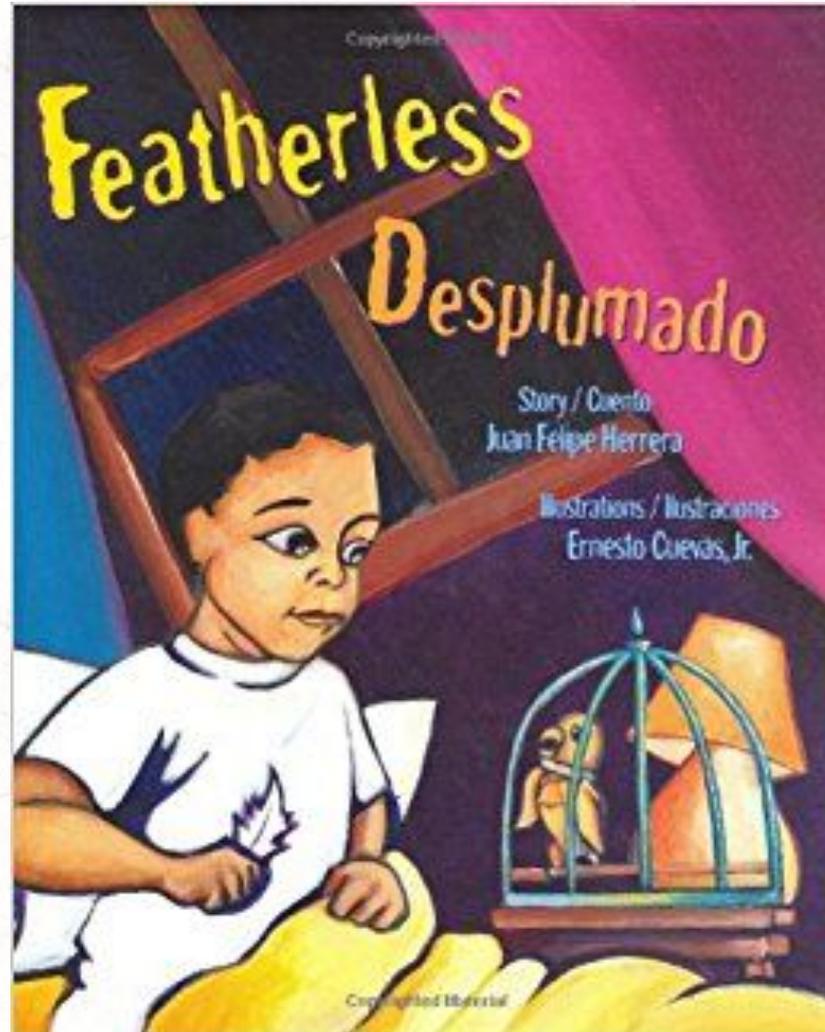
Why this matters?



“Our experiences of the social world are shaped by our ethnicity, race, social class, gender identity, sexual orientation, and numerous other facets of social stratification. Some social locations afford privilege (e.g., being white) while others are oppressive (e.g., being poor). These various aspects of social inequality do not operate independently of each other; they interact to create interrelated systems of oppression and domination.”

Source: Dhillon, M., & Lyon, K. (2014). Intersectionality. In S. Thompson (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of diversity and social justice*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Retrieved from <http://hmlproxy.lib.csufresno.edu/login?url=https://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/rowmandasj/intersectionality/0?institutionId=5473>

Featherless, Story by Juan Felipe Herrera
and Illustrations by Ernesto Cuevas, Jr.



Featherless, Story by Juan Felipe Herrera and Illustrations by Ernesto Cuevas, Jr.

I race Papi home. Pop-pop-zaz!
I hump the door open with my wheely
and push over to Desplumado's cage.

"Desplumado! I made a goooooo!
The Fresno Flyers won!"
I open Desplumado's little wire gate
and he jumps onto my hand.
Ring! Ring! Ring! Ring!
He shakes his bell out loud.

"You can be a flyer too, Desplumado.
There's more than one way to fly!"
He rings his bell and I laugh,
my heart beating fast—so fast,
it feels like it's soaring.

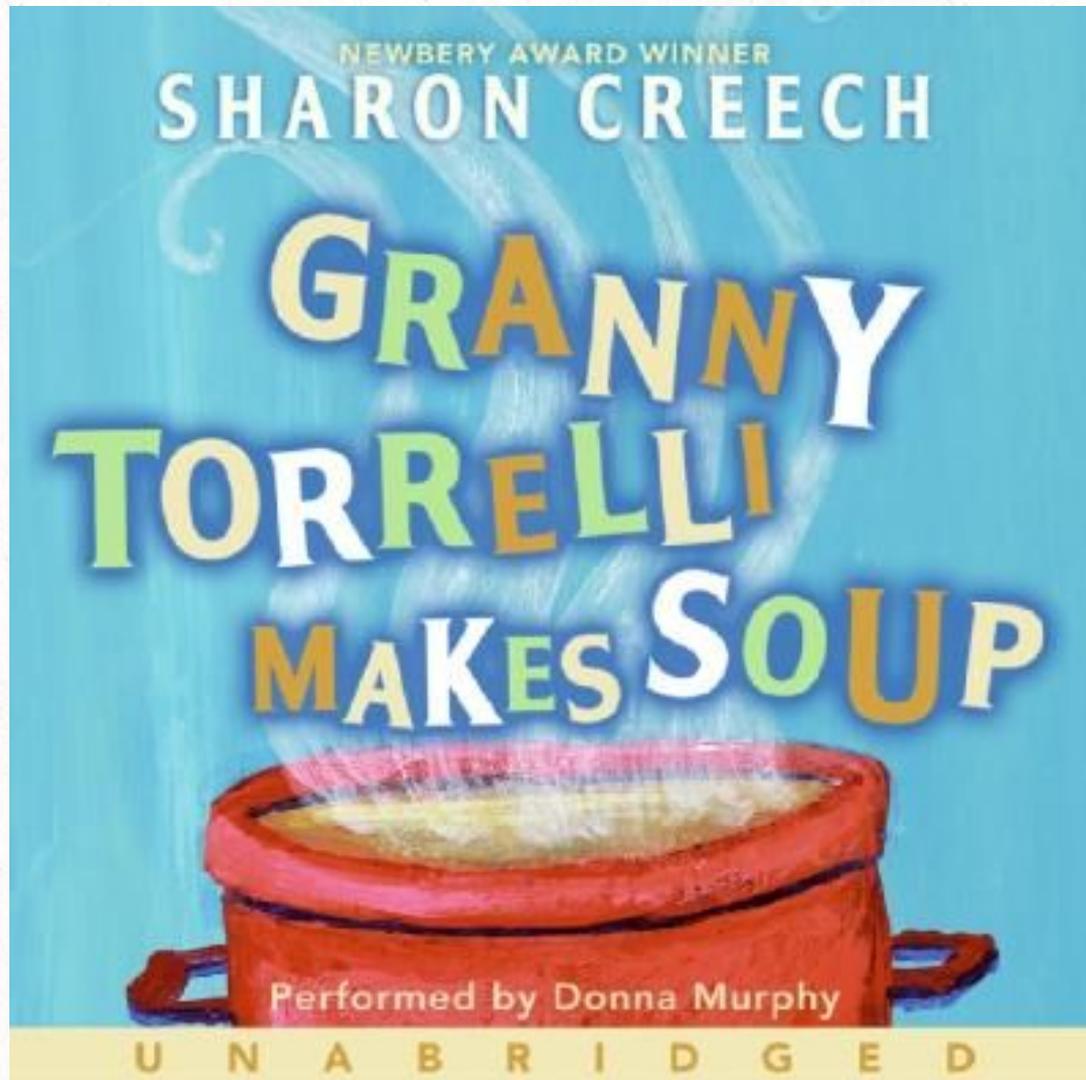
Volando a casa. ¡Plac-plac-zaz!
Empujo la puerta de la casita-tráiler con mi silla
para abrirla. Me acerco a la jaula.

—¡Desplumado! ¡Meti un gooooooo!
¡Los Voladores de Fresno ganaron el juego!
Abro la puerquita de alambre de la jaula y
Desplumado me salta sobre la mano.
¡Tilín! ¡Tilín! ¡Tilín! ¡Tilín!
Agita su campanita con mucho ánimo.

—Tú también puedes ser un volador, Desplumado.
¡Hay muchas maneras de volar!
—Desplumado hace sonar su campanita y me río,
con el corazón latiéndome muy fuerte,
tan fuerte que me parece que está volando.

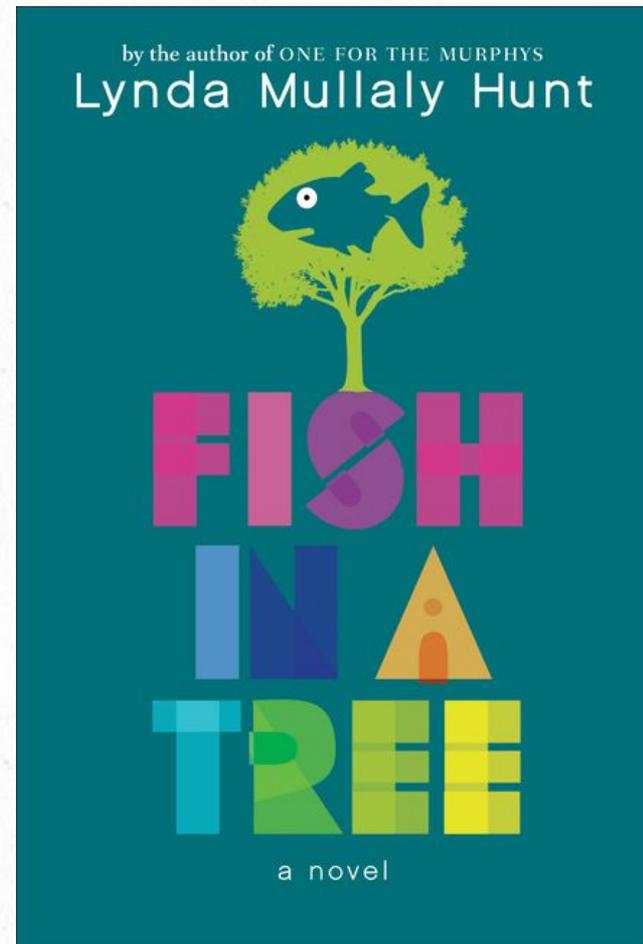


Granny Torrelli Makes Soup by Sharon Creech



Fish in a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

“Everybody is smart in different ways but if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its life believing it is stupid...”



Intersectionality in Library Services

Think about book displays, exhibits, programs and awarenesses in cultures and languages

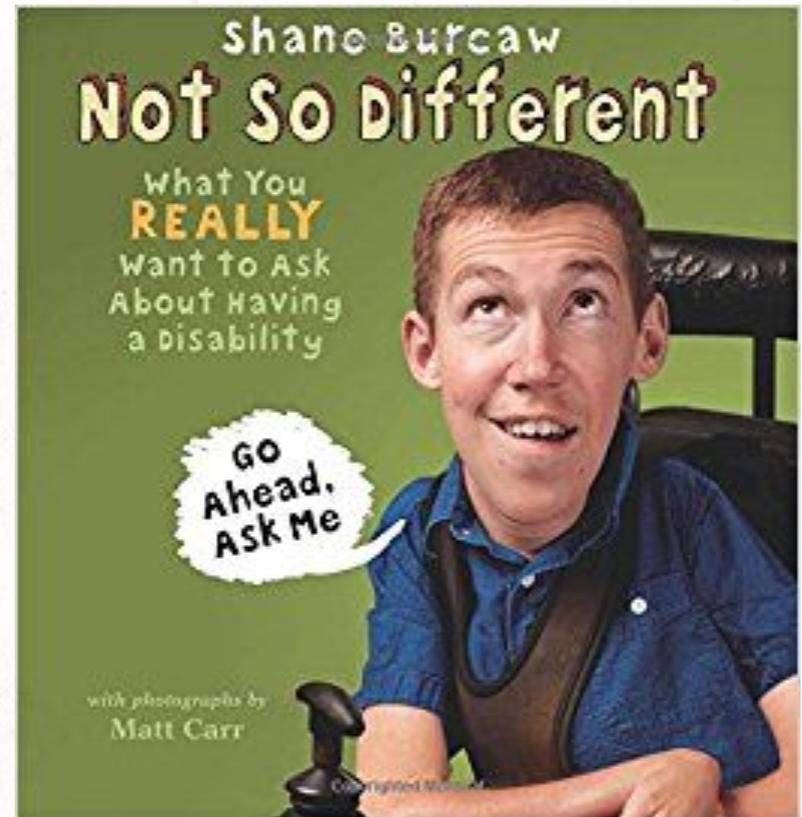
Different and various experiences of disabilities: learning, physical, visual, and developmental: how can we portray that in our work along with the other marginalized identities?



2.
**Self-development
and Inclusivity**

Not so Different by Shane Burcaw

Think about the services including elevators, ramps and other services to support patrons with physical challenges





Do people
ever make
fun of you?

Occasionally, and it hurts my feelings because if they knew me a little better, they would see that I'm not so different!

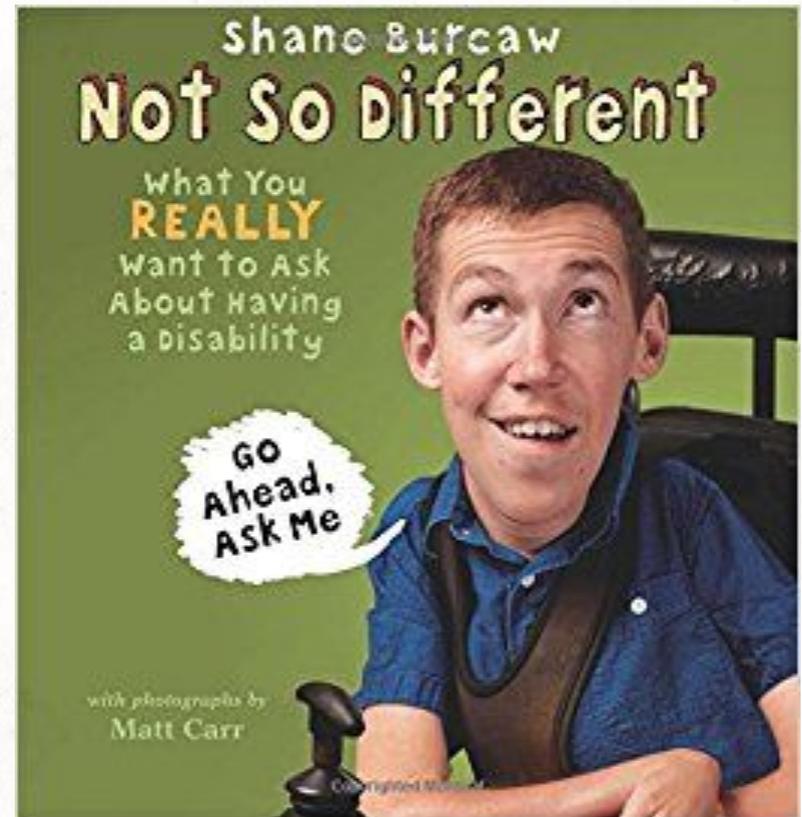


I believe it's very important not to judge a book by its cover, so when you meet someone who looks different from you, it's always best to treat them with kindness and respect.

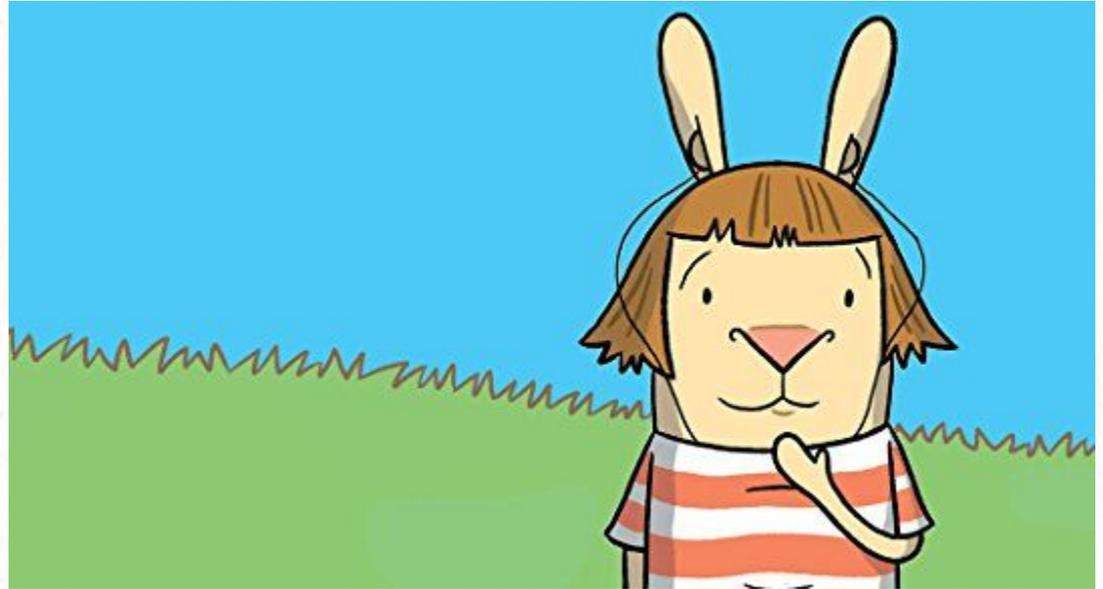
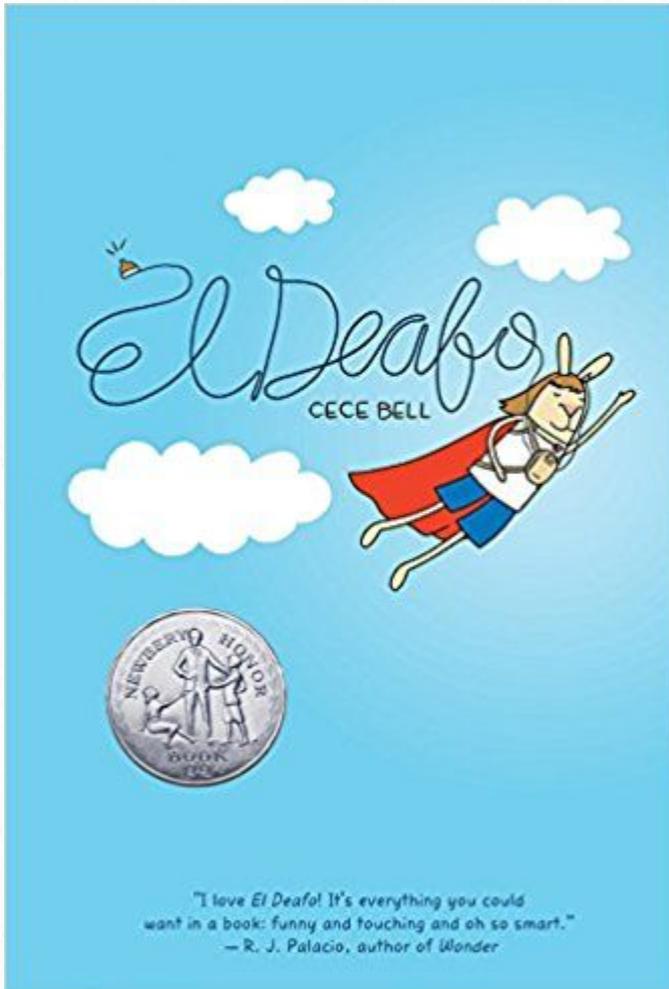
After all, that person may end up becoming one of your best friends.

"A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS"

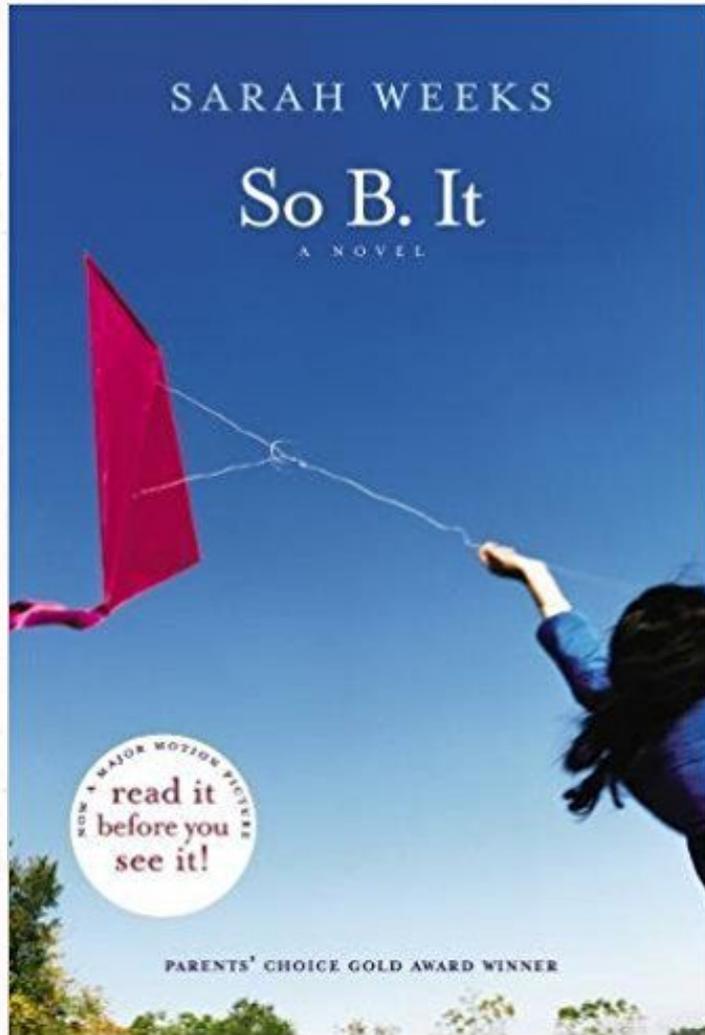
Develop: empathy,
compassion,
perspective,
understanding, dignity
and respect



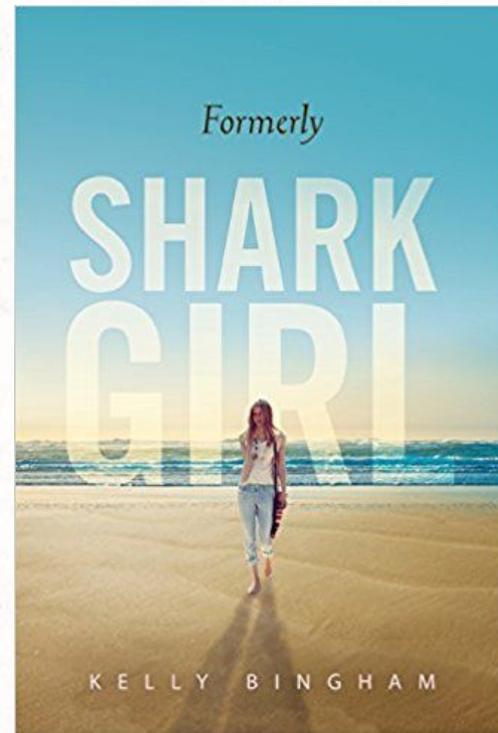
El Deafo by Cece Bell



So B. It by Sarah Weeks and *Shark Girl* by Kelly Bingham



Challenging Stigma: dialogues, talks through poems and conversations



Self-Awareness, Development and Inclusiveness

Design programs, outreach services and partnerships to increase awareness, dialogue, conversations for inclusivity

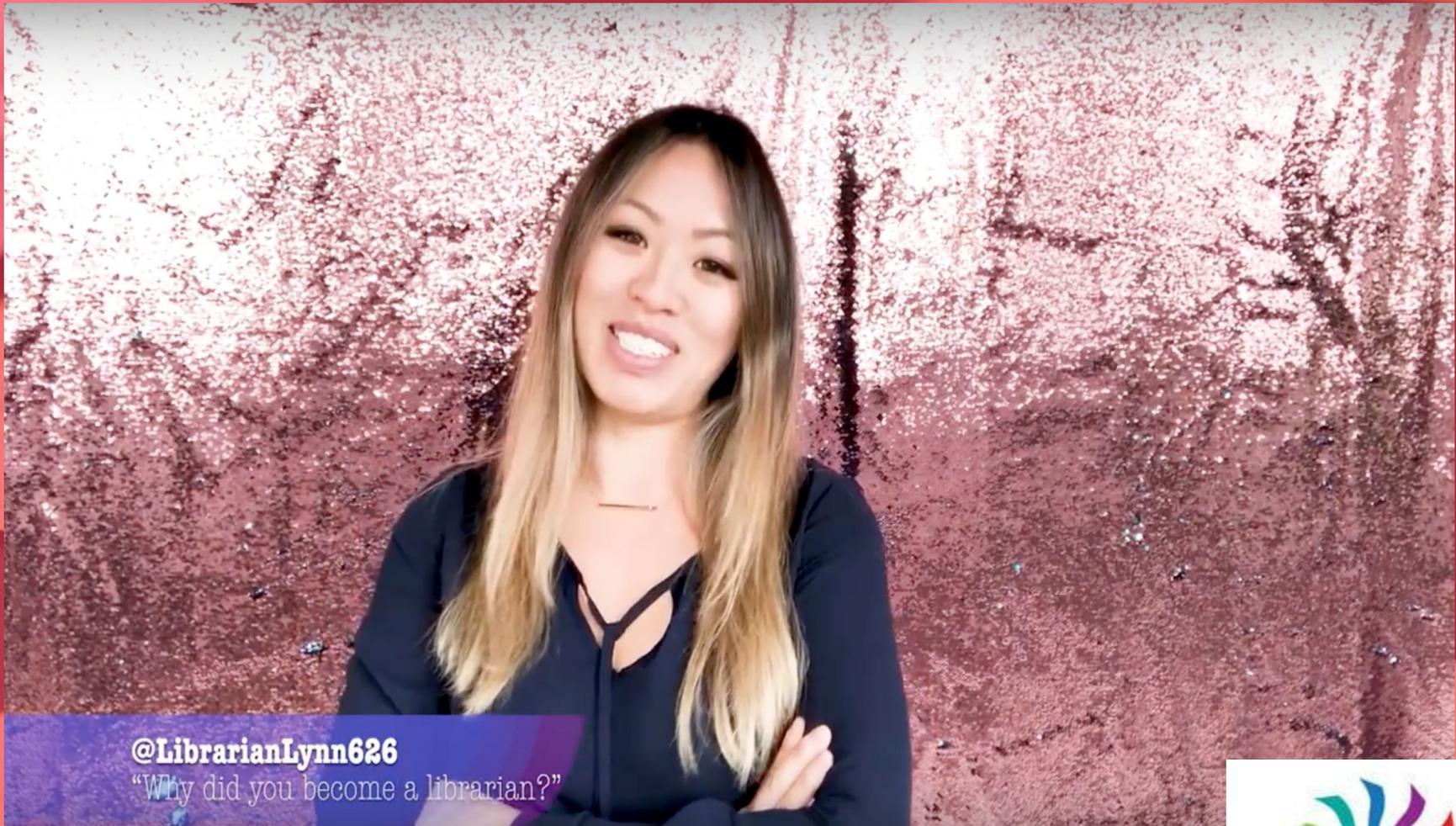
Build on community/patron trust, relations, and empathy in supporting those children and parents of children with disabilities



3.

APPLIED SERVICES

Featuring Lynn T. Nguyen



@LibrarianLynn626

“Why did you become a librarian?”

Source: <https://t.co/xjvxmy1WNf>





Image Source: <https://libguides.csun.edu/la-san-fernando-valley>



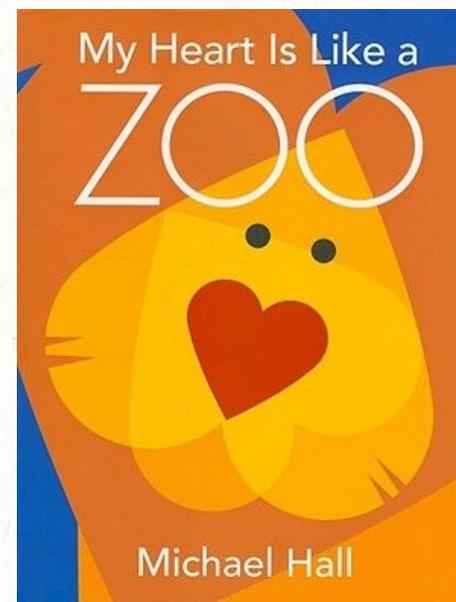
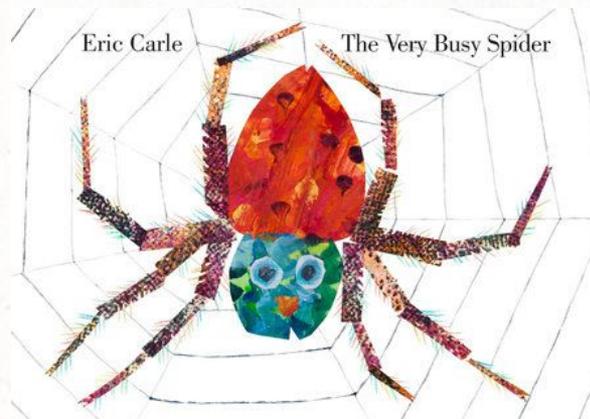
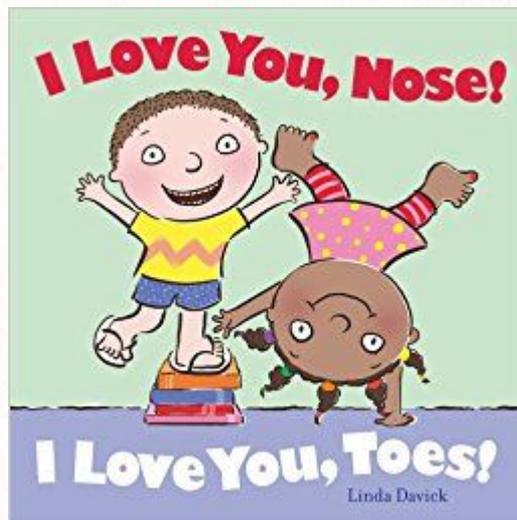
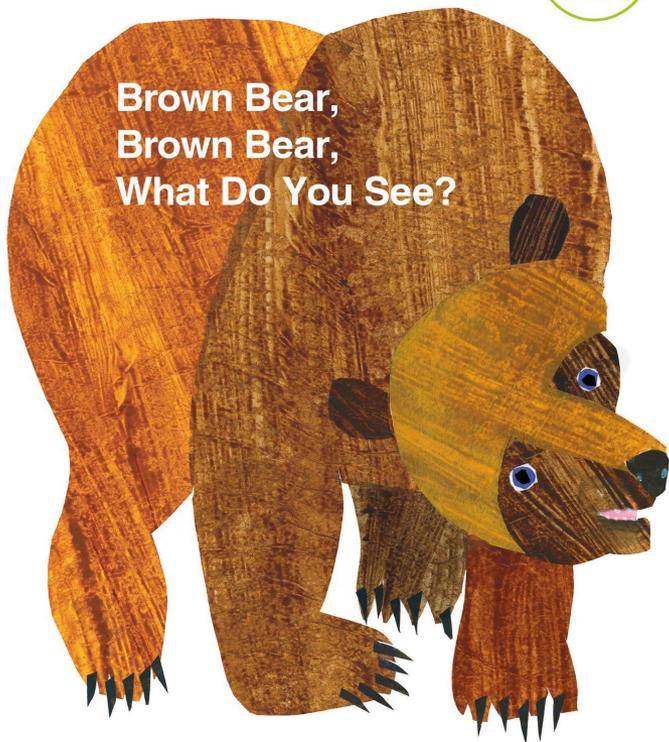
Image Source: <https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DK1joN9VwAAj5dz.jpg:large>

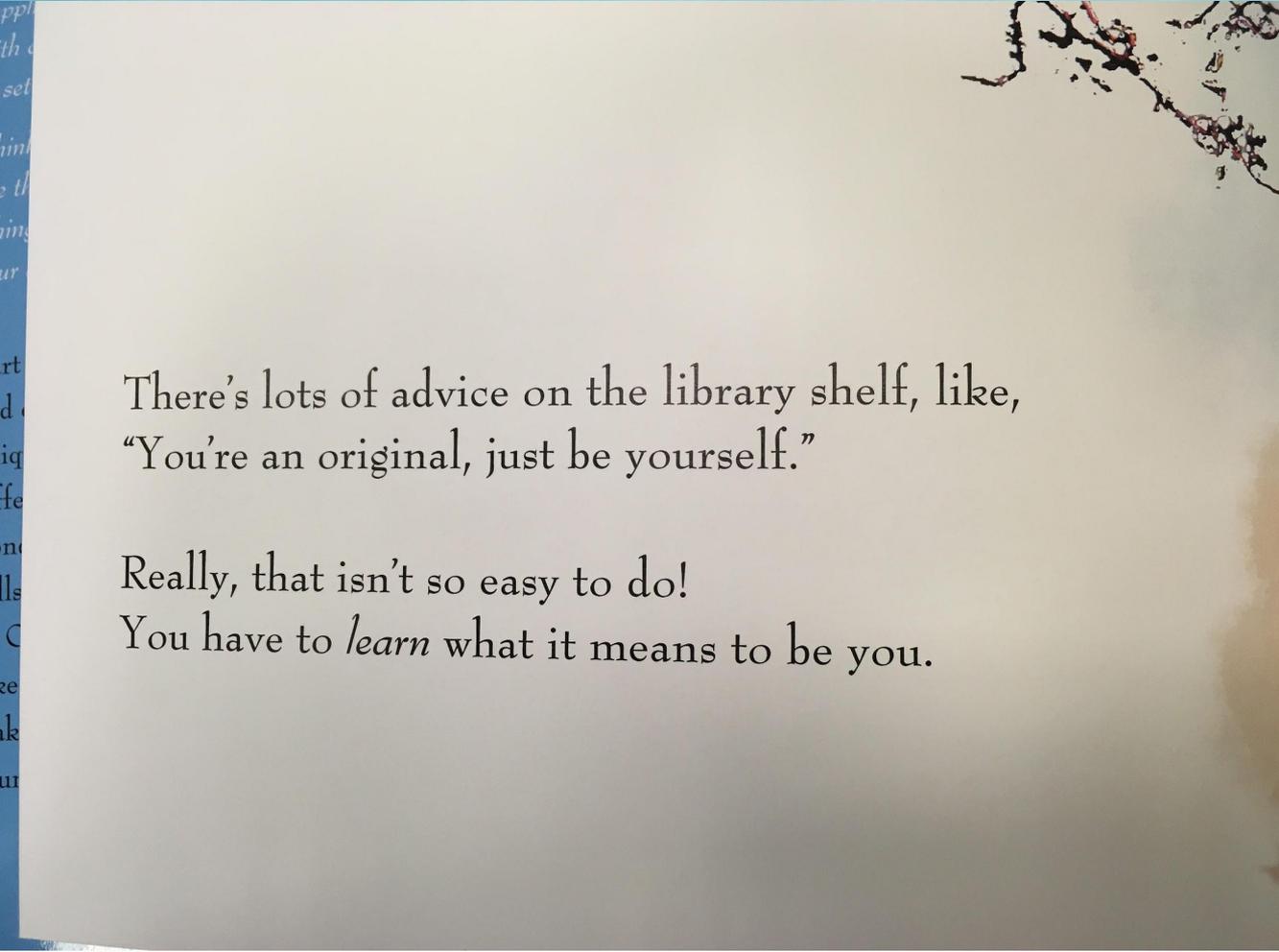
Lynn's Favorite Books

Bill Martin Jr / Eric Carle



Brown Bear,
Brown Bear,
What Do You See?





There's lots of advice on the library shelf, like,
"You're an original, just be yourself."

Really, that isn't so easy to do!
You have to *learn* what it means to be you.

You're all Kinds of Wonderful by Nancy Tillman

THANK YOU!

**any
questions
?**



You can find me at
[@raypun101](https://twitter.com/raypun101) / raypun101@gmail.com

CREDITS

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these awesome resources for free:

- ▶ Presentation template by [SlidesCarnival](#)
- ▶ Photographs by [Unsplash](#)
- ▶ Paper backgrounds by [SubtlePatterns](#)