



Fire Through Dry Grass

DELVE DEEPER READING LIST



This list of fiction and nonfiction books, compiled by Veronda Pitchford, Assistant director of Califa Group, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *Fire Through Dry Grass*.

Wearing snapback caps and Air Jordans, the Reality Poets aren't typical nursing home residents. In *Fire Through Dry Grass*, these young, Black and brown disabled artists document their lives on lockdown during Covid, their rhymes underscoring the danger and imprisonment they feel. In the face of institutional neglect, they refuse to be abused, confined, and erased.

Contributors



Veronda Pitchford

Assistant director of Califa Group

Veronda J. Pitchford is the Assistant Director of Califa Group, a nonprofit consortium committed to unleashing the impact of libraries. As part of her role, she serves as strategic partner for national grant projects, and manages Infopeople, Califa's national online library training arm. She is an active member of the American Library Association (ALA) and currently serves on the Public Library Association (PLA) board and is a Center for the Future of Libraries advisory group member. She consults and presents nationally on the crucial role libraries play in fostering equity, belonging, inclusion, and community engagement for the public. In her spare time, she is a member of PBS POV Documentaries Library Advisory Group and the Reading Between the Lines executive board, a non-profit committed to supporting the justice-impacted community with facilitated discussion-based programming that inspires conversation, connections, and critical thinking. She is a die-hard library chick.

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ADULT NON-FICTION

Alberti, Fay Bound. *A biography of loneliness: the history of an emotion*. Oxford University Press, 2019. Despite 21st-century fears of a modern 'epidemic' of loneliness, its history has been sorely neglected.' *A Biography of Loneliness* is the first history of its kind to be published in English, offering a radically new interpretation of loneliness as an emotional language and experience. Using letters and diaries, philosophical tracts, political discussions, and medical literature from the eighteenth century to the present, historian of the emotions Fay Bound Alberti argues that loneliness is not an ahistorical, universal phenomenon. It is, in fact, a modern emotion: before 1800, its language did not exist. As Alberti shows, the birth of loneliness is linked to the development of modernity: the all-encompassing ideology of the individual that has emerged in the mind and physical sciences, in economic structures, in philosophy and politics. While it has a biography of its own, loneliness impacts on people differently, according to their gender, ethnicity, religion, outlook, and socio-economic position. It is, Alberti argues, not a single state but an 'emotion cluster', composed of a wide variety of responses that include fear, anger, resentment and sorrow. In spite of this, loneliness is not always negative. And it is physical as well as psychological: loneliness is a product of the body as much as the mind. Looking at informative case studies such as Sylvia Plath, Queen Victoria, and Virginia Woolf, *A Biography of Loneliness* charts the emergence of loneliness as a modern emotional state. From social media addiction to widowhood, from homelessness to the oldest old, from mall hauls to massages, loneliness appears in all aspects of 21st-century life. Yet we cannot address its meanings, let alone formulate a cure, without attention to its complex, protean history.

Brown, Keah. *The Pretty One: On Life, Pop Culture, Disability, and Other Reasons to Fall in Love with Me*. Atria Paperback, New York, NY, 2019. "From the disability rights advocate and creator of the [#DisabledAndCute](#) viral campaign, a thoughtful, inspiring, and charming collection of essays exploring what it means to be black and disabled in a mostly able-bodied white America. Keah Brown loves herself, but that hadn't always been the case. Born with cerebral palsy, her greatest desire used to be normalcy and refuge from the steady stream of self-hate society strengthened inside her. But after years of introspection and reaching out to others in her community, she has reclaimed herself and changed her perspective. In *The Pretty One*, Brown gives a contemporary and relatable voice to the disabled -- so often portrayed as mute, weak, or isolated. With clear, fresh, and light-hearted prose, these essays explore everything from her relationship with her able-bodied identical twin (called 'the pretty one' by friends) to navigating romance; her deep affinity for all things pop culture--and her disappointment with the media's distorted view of disability; and her declaration of

self-love with the viral hashtag #DisabledAndCute. By 'smashing stigmas, empowering her community, and celebrating herself' (Teen Vogue), Brown and The Pretty One aims to expand the conversation about disability and inspire self-love for people of all backgrounds." – Provided by publisher.

Kafai, Shayda. *Crip Kinship: The Disability Justice & Art Activism of Sins Invalid*. Arsenal Pulp Press, Vancouver, BC, 2021. "The remarkable story of Sins Invalid, a performance project that centers queer disability justice. In recent years, disability activism has come into its own as a vital and necessary means to acknowledge the power and resilience of the disabled community, and to call out ableist culture wherever it appears. Crip Kinship explores the art activism of Sins Invalid, a San Francisco Bay Area-based performance project, and its radical imaginings of what disabled, queer, trans, and gender-nonconforming bodyminds of color can do: how they can rewrite oppression, and how they can gift us with transformational lessons for our collective survival. Grounded in the disability justice framework, Crip Kinship investigates the revolutionary survival teachings that disabled, queer of color community offers to all our bodyminds. From their focus on crip beauty and sexuality to manifesting digital kinship networks and crip-centric liberated zones, Sins Invalid empowers and moves us toward generating our collective liberation from our bodyminds outward." – Provided by publisher.

Ladau, Emily. *Demystifying Disability: What to Know, What to Say, and How to Be an Ally*. Ten Speed Press, an imprint of Random House, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, California, 2021. "A guide for how to be a thoughtful, informed ally to disabled people, with actionable steps for what to say and do (and what not to do) and how you can help make the world a more accessible place." – Provided by publisher.

Leduc, Amanda. *Disfigured: On Fairy Tales, Disability, and Making Space*. Coach House Books, Toronto, Ontario, 2020. If every disabled character is mocked and mistreated, how does the Beast ever imagine a happily-ever-after? Amanda Leduc looks at fairy tales from the Brothers Grimm to Disney, showing us how they influence our expectations and behavior and linking the quest for disability rights to new kinds of stories that celebrate difference.

Duffy, Mignon, Amy Armenia, and Kim Price-Glynn (editors). *From crisis to catastrophe : care, COVID, and pathways to change*. Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, New Jersey, 2023. The COVID-19 pandemic has shaken the material and social foundations of the world more than any event in recent history and has highlighted and exacerbated a longstanding crisis of care. While these challenges may be freshly visible to the public, they are not new. Over the last three decades, a growing body of care scholarship has documented the inadequacy of the social organization of care around the world, and the effect of the devaluation of care on workers, families, and communities. In this volume, a diverse group of

care scholars bring their expertise to bear on this recent crisis. In doing so, they consider the ways in which the existing social organization of care in different countries around the globe amplified or mitigated the impact of COVID-19. They also explore the impact of the global pandemic on the conditions of care and its role in exacerbating deeply rooted gender, race, migration, disability, and other forms of inequality." – Provided by publisher

Piepzna-Samarasinha, Leah. *Care work : dreaming disability justice*. Arsenal Pulp Press, Vancouver, BC, 2018. "Leah Piepzna-Samarasinha is a poet and essayist whose most recent book, the memoir *Dirty River*, was a finalist for a Lambda Literary Award and the Publishing Triangle's Judy Grahm Award for Lesbian Nonfiction. She is also a long-time member of the disability justice movement, which advocates for the rights of the disabled. In her latest book of essays, Leah writes passionately and personally about disability justice, on subjects such as the creation of care webs, collective access, and radically accessible spaces. She also imparts her own survivor skills and wisdom based on her years of activist work, empowering the disabled--in particular, those in queer and/or BIPOC communities--and granting them the necessary tools by which they can imagine a future where no one is left behind. Presently, disability justice and emotional/care work are buzzwords on many people's lips, and the disabled and sick are discovering new ways to build power within themselves and each other; at the same time, those powers remain at risk in this fragile political climate in which we find ourselves. Powerful and passionate, *Care Work* is a crucial and necessary call to arms." – Provided by publisher

Piepzna-Samarasinha, Leah. *The future is disabled : prophecies, love notes, and mourning songs*. Arsenal Pulp Press, Vancouver, BC, 2022. "In *The Future Is Disabled*, Leah Laksmi Piepzna-Samarasinha asks some provocative questions: What if, in the near future, the majority of people will be disabled - and what if that's not a bad thing? And what if disability justice and disabled wisdom are crucial to creating a future in which it's possible to survive fascism, climate change, and pandemics and to bring about liberation? Building on the work of their game-changing book *Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice*, Piepzna-Samarasinha writes about disability justice at the end of the world, documenting the many ways disabled people kept and are keeping each other - and the rest of the world - alive during Trump, fascism and the COVID-19 pandemic. Other subjects include crip interdependence, care and mutual aid in real life, disabled community building, and disabled art practice as survival and joy. Written over the course of two years of disabled isolation during the pandemic, this is a book of love letters to other disabled QTBIPOC (and those concerned about disability justice, the care crisis, and surviving the apocalypse); honor songs for kin who are gone; recipes for survival; questions and real talk about care, organizing, disabled families, and kin networks and communities; and wild brown disabled femme joy in the face of death. With passion and power, *The Future Is Disabled* remembers our dead and insists on our future."-- Provided by publisher

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provocative questions: What if, in the near future, the majority of people will be disabled - and what if that's not a bad thing? And what if disability justice and disabled wisdom are crucial to creating a future in which it's possible to survive fascism, climate change, and pandemics and to bring about liberation? Building on the work of their game-changing book *Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice*, Piepzna-Samarasinha writes about disability justice at the end of the world, documenting the many ways disabled people kept and are keeping each other - and the rest of the world - alive during Trump, fascism and the COVID-19 pandemic. Other subjects include crip interdependence, care and mutual aid in real life, disabled community building, and disabled art practice as survival and joy. Written over the course of two years of disabled isolation during the pandemic, this is a book of love letters to other disabled QTBIPOC (and those concerned about disability justice, the care crisis, and surviving the apocalypse); honor songs for kin who are gone; recipes for survival; questions and real talk about care, organizing, disabled families, and kin networks and communities; and wild brown disabled femme joy in the face of death. With passion and power, *The Future Is Disabled* remembers our dead and insists on our future." – Provided by publisher

Schalk, Sami. *Black Disability Politics*. Duke University Press, Durham, NC, 2022. "In *Black Disability Politics* Sami Schalk explores how issues of disability, broadly construed, have been and continue to be incorporated into Black activism, from the 1970s to the present. In so doing, she establishes a new lineage for disability politics, one that allows the work of contemporary Black disability justice activists to be central. Aiming to speak to both academic and activist audiences, *Black Disability Politics* identifies common qualities of Black disability politics and provides praxis-based approaches for enacting these politics in contemporary social justice work. Using the archives of the Black Panther Party and the National Black Women's Health Project alongside interviews with contemporary Black disabled cultural workers, Schalk argues that the work of Black disability politics not only exist, but are essential to the future of Black liberation movements." – Provided by publisher.

Taussig, Rebekah. *Sitting Pretty: The View From My Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body*. HarperOne, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, New York, NY, 2020. "From disability advocate with a PhD in disability studies and creative nonfiction, and creator of the Instagram account @sitting_pretty, an essay collection based on a lifetime of experiences in a paralyzed body, tackling themes of identity, accessibility, bodies, and representation" – Provided by publisher.

Wong, Alice (editor). *Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories From the Twenty-First Century*. Vintage Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, New York, 2020. "A groundbreaking collection of first-person writing on the joys and challenges of the modern disability experience: *Disability Visibility* brings together the voices of activists, authors,

lawyers, politicians, artists, and everyday people whose daily lives are, in the words of playwright Neil Marcus, "an art ... an ingenious way to live." According to the last census, one in five people in the United States lives with a disability. Some are visible, some are hidden--but all are underrepresented in media and popular culture. Now, just in time for the thirtieth anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, activist Alice Wong brings together an urgent, galvanizing collection of personal essays by contemporary disabled writers. There is Harriet McBryde Johnson's "Unspeakable Conversations," which describes her famous debate with Princeton philosopher Peter Singer over her own personhood. There is columnist S.E. Smith's celebratory review of a work of theater by disabled performers. There are original pieces by up-and-coming authors like Keah Brown and Haben Girma. There are blog posts, manifestos, eulogies, and testimonies to Congress. Taken together, this anthology gives a glimpse of the vast richness and complexity of the disabled experience, highlighting the passions, talents, and everyday lives of this community. It invites readers to question their own assumptions and understandings. It celebrates and documents disability culture in the now. It looks to the future and past with hope and love" – Provided by publisher.

Wong, Alice. *Year of the Tiger: An Activist's Life*. Vintage Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, New York, 2022. "Drawing on a collection of original essays, previously published work, conversations, graphics, photos, commissioned art by disabled and Asian American artists, and more, Alice uses her unique talent to share an impressionistic scrapbook of her life as an Asian American disabled activist, community organizer, media maker, and dreamer. From her love of food and pop culture to her unwavering commitment to dismantling systemic ableism, Alice shares her thoughts on creativity, access, power, care, the pandemic, mortality, and the future. As a self-described disabled oracle, Alice traces her origins, tells her story, and creates a space for disabled people to be in conversation with one another and the world. Filled with incisive wit, joy, and rage, Wong's *Year of the Tiger* will galvanize readers with big cat energy." – Provided by publisher.

ADULT FICTION

Baker, Mishell. *Borderline*. Saga Press, trademark of Simon & Schuster, Inc., New York, NY, 2016. A year ago Millie lost her legs and her filmmaking career in a failed suicide attempt. Just when she's sure the credits have rolled on her life story, she gets a second chance with the Arcadia Project: a secret organization that polices the traffic to and from a parallel reality filled with creatures straight out of myth and fairy tales. For her first assignment, Millie is tasked with tracking down a missing movie star, who also happens to be a nobleman of the Seelie Court. To find him, she'll have to smooth talk Hollywood power players and uncover the surreal and sometimes terrifying truth behind the glamor of Tinseltown. But stronger forces than just her inner demons are sabotaging her progress, and if she fails to unravel the conspiracy behind the noble's disappearance, not only will she be out on the streets, but the shattering of a centuries-old peace could spark an all-out war between worlds. No pressure.

Frankel, Laurie. *One Two Three*. Henry Holt and Company, New York, NY, 2021. "Mab is the "normal" one, never mind Bourne Memorial High School has banned that term, and besides, she's a stickler for words and definitions and knows normal isn't normal in Bourne. Monday is a stickler for everything else. She doesn't like abbreviations, contractions, lies, typos, or wearing green clothes on yellow days. When the Bourne library shut down--funds desperately needed elsewhere--she stashed the books under her bed, behind the sofa, along the stairs, inside the microwave, and lends them from home. Mirabel's the smart one, the slow one, the stuck one. Much of her body requires augmentation--she needs a wheelchair to navigate the world, a voice app to speak to it--but her right arm and hand work flawlessly. And so do her brain and her heart. Nora gave her girls "M" names with escalating syllables so she'd be able to keep them straight. As if single parenting sixteen-year-old triplets weren't enough, her two jobs--Bourne's only therapist and its only bartender--are both in unusually high demand. And then there's the job she can't let go--lead plaintiff in Bourne's class-action lawsuit against Bison Chemical. Seventeen years ago, the Bison plant was pumping toxic chemicals into Bourne's river. Flowers stopped blooming. Pets got sick, then their owners did too. A generation was born not quite whole. Nora assures her daughters they're perfect just the way they are, but she's still spent their whole lives fighting to make Bison pay. When a new student at Bourne Memorial High turns out to be the grandson of Bison's CEO, everyone realizes that in a town where nothing ever changes, suddenly everything has. And when Bison announces plans to reopen the plant, the girls take up their mother's cause in a race to find what Bison is hiding and to stop them. Part small-town mystery, part girl-superhero story, *One Two Three* is Laurie Frankel's specialty, a timely, topical novel about love and family that will make you laugh and cry and laugh again" – Provided by publisher.

Hibbert, Talia. *Get a Life, Chloe Brown: A Novel (The Brown Sisters Book 1)*. Avon, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, New York, NY, 2019. “Chloe Brown is a chronically ill computer geek with a goal, a plan, and a list. After almost—but not quite—dying, she’s come up with seven directives to help her “Get a Life”, and she’s already completed the first: finally moving out of her glamorous family’s mansion. The next items?

- Enjoy a drunken night out.
- Ride a motorcycle.
- Go camping.
- Have meaningless but thoroughly enjoyable sex.
- Travel the world with nothing but hand luggage.
- And... do something bad.

But it’s not easy being bad, even when you’ve written step-by-step guidelines on how to do it correctly. What Chloe needs is a teacher, and she knows just the man for the job. Redford ‘Red’ Morgan is a handyman with tattoos, a motorcycle, and more sex appeal than ten-thousand Hollywood heartthrobs. He’s also an artist who paints at night and hides his work in the light of day, which Chloe knows because she spies on him occasionally. Just the teeniest, tiniest bit. But when she enlists Red in her mission to rebel, she learns things about him that no spy session could teach her. Like why he clearly resents Chloe’s wealthy background. And why he never shows his art to anyone. And what really lies beneath his rough exterior...” – Provided by publisher.

Kemmerer, Brigid. *A Curse So Dark and Lonely*. Bloomsbury, New York, NY, 2019. “Prince Rhen, the heir to Emberfall, is cursed. Forced to repeat the autumn of his eighteenth year over and over, he can only be freed by love. But at the end of each autumn he is transformed into a beast hell-bent on destruction, and after so many failed attempts, his kingdom and its people are barely holding on. Harper’s life has never been easy, but she’s learned to be tough enough to survive. She won’t let anything hold her back, not her cerebral palsy or her mother’s deteriorating health. But when she is sucked into Rhen’s world, nothing is as it seems. Powerful forces are standing against Emberfall ... and it will take more than a broken curse to save it from utter ruin. The thrilling Cursebreakers series continues in *A Heart So Fierce and Broken* and *A Vow So Bold and Deadly*.” – Provided by publisher.

Liese, Chloe. *Always Only You*. Chloe Liese, 2020. “Ren: The moment I met her, I knew Frankie Zeferino was someone worth waiting for. Deadpan delivery, secret heart of gold, and a rare one-dimpled smile that makes my knees weak, Frankie has been forbidden since the day she and I became coworkers, meaning waiting has been the name of my game--besides, hockey, that is. I’m a player on the team, she’s on staff, and as long as we work together, dating is off-limits. But patience has always been my virtue. Frankie won’t be here forever--she’s headed for bigger, better things. I just hope that when she leaves the team and I

tell her how I feel, she won't want to leave me behind, too. Frankie: I've had a problem at work since the day Ren Bergman joined the team: a six foot three hunk of happy with a sunshine smile. I'm a grumbly grump and his ridiculously good nature drives me nuts, but even I can't entirely ignore that hot tamale of a ginger with icy eyes, the perfect playoff beard, and a body built for sin that he's annoyingly modest about. Before I got wise, I would have tripped over myself to get a guy like Ren, but with my diagnosis, I've learned what I am to most people in my life--a problem, not a person. Now, opening my heart to anyone, no matter how sweet, is the last thing I'm prepared to do." – Provided by publisher.

Piepzna-Samarasinha, Leah Lakshmi. *Bodymap*. Mawenzi House, Toronto, Ontario, 2015. In *Bodymap*, Lambda Award-winner Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha sings a queer disabled femme-of-color love song filled with hard femme poetics and disability justice. In this volume, Leah Lakshmi maps hard and vulnerable terrains of queer desire, survivorhood, transformative love, sick and disabled queer genius and all the homes we claim and deserve.

Ripper, Kris. *Gays of Our Lives*. Riptide Publishing, Burnsville, NC, 2016. “Emerson Robinette only leaves his apartment to get laid and go to work. Having MS—and trying to pretend he doesn’t—makes everything more complicated, especially his fantasies of coming on strong and holding a guy down. Finding a partner who’ll explore that with him isn’t Emerson’s idea of a realistic goal. Until a chance meeting with a hipster on a bus makes him reconsider. Obie is happy, open-hearted, and warm; what’s more, he gets his kicks being physically dominated, spanked, and teased until he’s begging. It would be perfect, except for one thing: Emerson isn’t made for happiness, and he doesn’t see how a guy like Obie would settle for a cynic like him. But as far as Obie’s concerned, the only thing keeping them apart is Emerson. Can Emerson handle a boyfriend who’s more invested in his future than he is? Emerson’s barely convinced he has a future. But when Obie’s smiling at him, anything seems possible.” – Provided by publisher.

YOUNG ADULT NON-FICTION

Philip, Aaron, and Tonya Bolden. *This Kid Can Fly: It's About Ability (Not Disability)*. Balzer + Bray, HarperCollins, New York, NY, 2016. “In this heartbreaking and ultimately uplifting memoir, Aaron Philip, a fourteen-year-old boy with cerebral palsy, shows how he isn't defined so much by his disability as he is by his abilities. Written with award-winning author Tonya Bolden, *This Kid Can Fly* chronicles Aaron's extraordinary journey from happy baby in Antigua to confident teen artist in New York City. His honest, often funny stories of triumph—despite physical difficulties, poverty, and other challenges—are as inspiring as they are eye-opening.” – Provided by publisher.

Reeves, Jordan. *Born Just Right*. Aladdin, New York, NY, 2019. “When Jordan Reeves was born without the bottom half of her left arm, the doctors reassured her parents that she was “born just right.” And she has been proving that doctor right ever since! With candor, humor, and heart, Jordan's mother, Jen Lee Reeves, helps Jordan tell her story about growing up in an able-bodied world and family, where she was treated like all of her siblings and classmates--and where she never felt limited. Whether it was changing people's minds about her capabilities, trying all kinds of sports, or mentoring other kids, Jordan has channeled any negativity into a positive, and is determined to create more innovations for people just like her.” – Provided by publisher.

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Allen, Rachael. *Taxonomy of Love*. Amulet Books, New York, NY, 2018. "Between having a perfect-at-everything older brother and being teased about his Tourette's syndrome, Spencer is used to feeling like the weird one. But the moment Hope steps out of the moving van next door, Spencer feels different. Like his neighborhood is an entirely different place, now that he has a friend. Like he could tell Hope anything. Like he finally belongs. And then they grow up. Life gets messy, and labels like "friend" get messy, too. Through sibling feuds and family tragedies, new relationships and broken hearts, the two grow together and apart, and Spencer, an aspiring scientist, tries to map it all out using his normally trustworthy system of taxonomy. But unlike science, love doesn't always fit into easy-to-manage boxes. And if Spencer can't figure it out soon, he risks losing Hope completely." – Provided by publisher.

Bell, Cece. *El Deafo*. Amulet Books, New York, NY, 2014. "Going to school and making new friends can be tough. But going to school and making new friends while wearing a bulky hearing aid strapped to your chest? That requires superpowers! In this funny, poignant graphic novel memoir, author/illustrator Cece Bell chronicles her hearing loss at a young age and her subsequent experiences with the Phonic Ear, a very powerful--and very awkward--hearing aid. The Phonic Ear gives Cece the ability to hear--sometimes things she shouldn't--but also isolates her from her classmates. She really just wants to fit in and find a true friend, someone who appreciates her as she is. After some trouble, she is finally able to harness the power of the Phonic Ear and become "El Deafo, Listener for All." And more importantly, declare a place for herself in the world and find the friend she's longed for." – Provided by publisher.

DeGross, Monalisa, illustrated by Amy Bates. *Donavan's Double Trouble*. Amistad, HarperCollins, New York, NY, 2008. "Fourth-grader Donovan is sensitive about the problems he has understanding math. When his favorite uncle, a former high school basketball star, returns from National Guard duty as an amputee, Donovan's problems get even worse as he struggles to accept this "new" Uncle Vic." – Provided by publisher

Gervais, Alison. *The Silence Between Us*. Blink, Grand Rapids, MI, 2019. "Deaf teen Maya moves across the country and must attend a hearing school for the first time. As if that wasn't hard enough, she also has to adjust to the hearing culture, which she finds frustrating. As Maya looks past graduation and focuses on her future dreams, nothing, not even an unexpected romance, will derail her pursuits or cause her to question her own self worth." – Provided by publisher.

LeZotte, Ann Clare. *Show Me a Sign*. Scholastic, 2020. “Deaf author and librarian Ann Clare LeZotte weaves a riveting Own Voices story inspired by the true history of a thriving deaf community on Martha's Vineyard in the early 19th century. Mary Lambert has always felt safe and protected on her beloved island of Martha's Vineyard. Her great-great-grandfather was an early English settler and the first deaf islander. Now, over a hundred years later, many people there -- including Mary -- are deaf, and nearly everyone can communicate in sign language. Mary has never felt isolated. She is proud of her lineage. But recent events have delivered winds of change. Mary's brother died, leaving her family shattered. Tensions over land disputes are mounting between English settlers and the Wampanoag people. And a cunning young scientist has arrived, hoping to discover the origin of the island's prevalent deafness. His maniacal drive to find answers soon renders Mary a "live specimen" in a cruel experiment. Her struggle to save herself is at the core of this penetrating and poignant novel that probes our perceptions of ability and disability. It will make you forever question your own ideas about what is normal.” – Provided by publisher.

Nijkamp, Marieke (editor). *Unbroken: 13 Stories Starring Disabled Teens*. Farrar Straus Giroux, New York, 2018. "Warrior. Actor. Friend. Heroine. Traveler. Sister. Magician. Lover. Biker. In this stunning anthology, #1 New York Times-bestselling author Marieke Nijkamp teams up with fellow disabled authors to create a collection of fictional stories that dispense with the tired, broken stereotypes-- and reclaim narratives and identities. By weaving together tales of interstellar war, an enchanted carnival, or a dating debacle, *Unbroken* celebrates the varied experiences of disabled teens, including teens of color and of diverse genders and orientations, without obscuring the realities of their disabilities. At turns hilarious and heart-stopping, these short stories share a common thread-- one that has bent over time but will never break." – Provided by publisher.

Stork, Francisco X. *The Memory of Light*. Arthur A. Levine Books, Scholastic, New York, NY, 2016. “When Vicky Cruz wakes up in the Lakeview Hospital Mental Disorders ward, she knows one thing: She can’t even commit suicide right. But for once, a mistake works out well for her, as she meets Mona, the live wire; Gabriel, the saint; E.M., always angry; and Dr. Desai, a quiet force. With stories and honesty, kindness and hard work, they push her to reconsider her life before Lakeview, and offer her an acceptance she’s never had. But Vicky’s newfound peace is as fragile as the roses that grow around the hospital. And when a crisis forces the group to split up, sending her back to the life that drove her to suicide, Vicky must try to find the strength to carry on. She may not have it. She doesn’t know.” – Provided by the author.

Stroker, Ali, and Stacy Davidowitz. *The Chance to Fly*. Amulet Books, New York, NY, 2021. “Thirteen-year-old Nat Beacon loves a lot of things: her dog Warbucks, her best friend Chloe, and competing on her wheelchair racing team, the Zoomers, to name a few. But there’s one thing she’s absolutely OBSESSED with: MUSICALS! From *Hamilton* to *Les Mis*, there’s not a cast

album she hasn't memorized and belted along to. She's never actually been in a musical, though, or even seen an actor who uses a wheelchair for mobility on stage. Would someone like Nat ever get cast? But when Nat's family moves from California to New Jersey, Nat stumbles upon auditions for a kids' production of *Wicked*, one of her favorite musicals ever! And she gets into the ensemble! The other cast members are super cool and inclusive (well, most of them)—especially Malik, the male lead and cutest boy Nat's ever seen. But when things go awry a week before opening night, will Nat be able to cast her fears and insecurities aside and “Defy Gravity” in every sense of the song title?” – Provided by distributor.

Venkatraman, Padma. *A Time to Dance*. Nancy Paulsen Books, Penguin Group, New York, NY, 2014. “Padma Venkatraman’s inspiring story of a young girl’s struggle to regain her passion and find a new peace is told lyrically through verse that captures the beauty and mystery of India and the ancient *bharatanatyam* dance form. This is a stunning novel about spiritual awakening, the power of art, and above all, the courage and resilience of the human spirit. Veda, a classical dance prodigy in India, lives and breathes dance—so when an accident leaves her a below-knee amputee, her dreams are shattered. For a girl who’s grown used to receiving applause for her dance prowess and flexibility, adjusting to a prosthetic leg is painful and humbling. But Veda refuses to let her disability rob her of her dreams, and she starts all over again, taking beginner classes with the youngest dancers. Then Veda meets Govinda, a young man who approaches dance as a spiritual pursuit. As their relationship deepens, Veda reconnects with the world around her, and begins to discover who she is and what dance truly means to her.” – Provided by publisher.

BOOKS FOR YOUNGER LEARNERS AND CHILDREN

Bay Pimente, Annette, and illustrated by Nabi Ali. *All the Way to the Top: How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed Everything*. Sourcebooks Explore, Naperville, IL, 2020. “Diagnosed with cerebral palsy at birth, Jennifer Keelan grew up battling - and overcoming - the limitations others set for her. From a lack of cutaway curbs and bus lifts to being denied enrollment at her neighborhood school, Jennifer was continually blocked from living the life she wanted. But after discovering the world of disability rights activism, she knew she had to use her voice to change things. When Jennifer was just eight years old, she participated in the Capitol Crawl. The image of Jennifer crawling up the steps of Capitol Hill went viral and helped pressure Congress into passing the Americans with Disabilities Act. A powerfully illustrated biography of Jennifer's life and a celebration of youth activism, this book will teach all children that they have the power to make a difference.” – Provided by publisher.

Brown, Keah. *Sam's Super Seats*. Listening Library, New York, NY, 2022. “Sam loves herself, learning, and making her family and friends laugh. She also loves comfortable seats, including a graceful couch named after Misty Copeland and Laney, the sassy backseat of Mom's car. After a busy morning of rest, Sam and her friends try on cute outfits at the mall and imagine what the new school year might bring. It's not until Sam feels tired, and the new seat she meets isn't so super, that she discovers what might be her best idea all day. With hilarious, charming text by Keah Brown and exuberant illustrations by Sharee Miller, *Sam's Super Seats* celebrates the beauty of self-love, the power of rest, and the necessity of accessible seating in public spaces. Includes narrative description of art for those with low/limited vision.” – Provided by publisher.

Rowe Schulte, Antira. *Dancing with Daddy*. Two Lions, New York, NY, 2021. “Elsie can't wait to go to her first father-daughter dance. She picked out the perfect dress and has been practicing swirling and swaying in her wheelchair. Elsie's heart pirouettes as she prepares for her special night. With gestures, smiles, and words from a book filled with pictures, she shares her excitement with her family. But when a winter storm comes, she wonders if she'll get the chance to spin and dance her way to a dream come true.” – Provided by the author.