



Fall 2025

A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Happy Fall!

The seasons are changing, and our book list is growing! Our Sensitivity Readers are busy reading over 150 books that were submitted for inclusion on our website and resources!

Approved books are being added to Disabilitybookweek.org each day, so check back frequently to find your next great read!

Thank you for your support!
Lindsey Larsen, OTD, OTR/L, ASDCS

Disability Book Week now has a seal!
When you see a book with our DBW seal,
you know it has been read and selected
as a “disability-inclusive read” by our
Disability Book Week Sensitivity Readers!



IN THE MEDIA

Disability Book Week hosted its first awareness booth in Brownsville, TX in July! Our Director of Community Outreach and Advocacy, Maribel Leos, shared the Mission and Vision of Disability Book Week at the 35th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act “Walk & Roll” while handing out free copies of disability-inclusive books donated by some of our amazing DBW authors! Read more about the event [here!](#)

AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT: LISA JACOVSKY

1. What prompted you to write about disability?

My inspiration has been from working in the field of applied behavior analysis. But that aside, I really wanted to showcase the way I see disability. Not as a limitation but as something that makes us all unique. To me, being different is beautiful and we are all individuals. Having something like a disability is just another one of those individual things that makes us unique. I wanted to showcase this in a positive way and writing was the best way I knew how.

2. What is your experience with disability and how has it shaped you as an author?

I have been working in the field of applied behavior analysis since 2014. I recently left that part of the field and will be starting my internship in school psychology. My career set the foundation for my career as a writer. It gave me a purpose for writing and a reason to showcase what I have always known, that being different is wonderful and should be celebrated.

3. What are you hoping your readers will take away/learn from your story?

I want readers to see beyond those outward differences and recognize that an individual is just that, whether human or cat. Animals are able to get the same disorders and difficulties that humans have. I want people to see their beauty the same way they see the beauty in humans with a disability. We need to look beyond what we can see and look for the inside of the person.

4. Have you or do you plan to write other books with a disability focus?

I currently have twelve children's books and there are going to be two definitely published next year in 2026 and possibly a third. I have plenty more, including a spin-off of my Halloween book that was illustrated by individuals with autism.

5. What has your experience writing a book been like?

Writing these books has been the best experience. I am so happy I decided to do this. The stories have been pouring out and it feels so good to write. I love writing and being able to be creative. This journey has turned into so much more than I thought it would. Its mostly due to networking, but the individuals I have met in the author world are incredible. I am so thankful for their friendship and guidance.

To learn more about Lisa, connect with her on social media. Instagram: @diverseinkbooks



SEVERAL NEW ADDITIONS TO DISABILITYBOOKWEEK.ORG

CHILDREN'S PICTURE BOOK



What our Sensitivity Reader had to say: "I love how the author used inclusive language!"

CHILDREN'S-MIDDLE GRADE CHAPTER BOOK



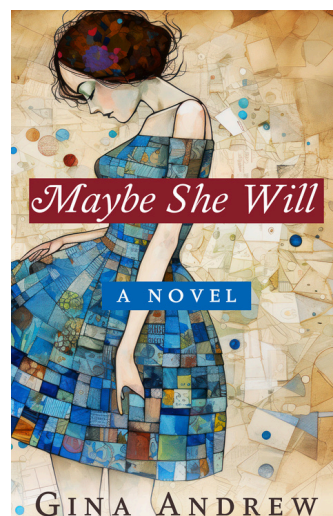
What our Sensitivity Reader had to say: "A great resource for middle schoolers who have siblings with mental or emotional health concerns."

YOUNG ADULT



What our Sensitivity Reader had to say: "I love the way this book seamlessly blends what it's like to live with blindness and all the access needs that come with it, within the story. It educates and raises awareness without being a distraction or preachy. It's perfection."

ADULT



What our Sensitivity Reader had to say: "As a mother of a child with autism and intellectual disability, I appreciate being able to relate to the main character—the joys and the challenges! A very sweet romance that had me carrying the book from room to room."

OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUTHORS & PUBLISHERS

Our Community Partner, Charity's Readers for Tomorrow, is a newly formed 501c3 non-profit dedicated to providing engaging, positive, and socially conscious children's books to schools and communities in need. This organization is committed to ensuring books with disability representation are included in the books they provide. For authors/publishers interested in donating their books and having them considered for future purchase by Charity's Readers for Tomorrow, please visit <https://www.charitysreaders.org/donate> or email Charity@CharitysReaders.org.

In Collaboration with DBW, volunteer and author Katie Lockwood, is hosting a **12 Days of Christmas Children's Picture Book Advent Calendar on Instagram** in December. If you are interested in having your picture book revealed and read to her children on social media, please email her at acorncottagepress@gmail.com.

Criteria to be included:

- Must be a children's picture book that is included on disabilitybookweek.org
- Must have a Kindle eBook version and the eBook is available to be free on the day the book is read in December
- Must provide a physical copy of the book to Katie

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

"Growing up with Cerebral Palsy, I never got the opportunity to read about characters that were like me. I think every kid deserves to see themselves represented. That is why Disability Book Week means so much to me."

Melissa is a Sensitivity Reader and coordinates special projects for Disability Book Week.



Melissa McPherson

Speech therapist and author Carole Barton is starting an independent/hybrid **bookshelf at her elementary school with books that target Kindergarten-6th grade**. This will be used for a positive reading experience—a free just right book for each child.

Please email Carole if you are interested in donating a copy of your book(s):

Carole_barton@msvl.k12.wa.us

DBW COMMUNITY EVENTS

**DBW WILL BE HOSTING SPOOKTACULAR BOOTHS
AT FALL HOLIDAY EVENTS IN CHICAGO AND BROWNSVILLE, TX.
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**



Disability Book Week logo, Rising Lights Project logo, My Recess Therapy logo.

MY RECESS THERAPY, RISING LIGHTS PROJECT
& COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN CARE
INVITE YOU TO JOIN OUR ANNUAL
SENSORY & ALLERGY FRIENDLY
INCLUSIVE EVENT

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Free Family Friendly Event!
25 Saturday Oct. 25th
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Elburn Metra Train Station
Anderson Road, Elburn, IL.
Left on to Anderson Rd from Rt. 38

Trunk or Treating Sensory & Allergy Friendly Handouts*Activities*Crafts
*Teal Pumpkin Hunt*Best Halloween Costume Contest
*Vote for your favorite trunk*Raffles*Prizes & More!



Brownsville logo, Special needs advisory logo, Brownsville Event Center logo.

A VERY SPECIAL BOO BASH 2025

BROWNSVILLE EVENT CENTER OCT. 24 6PM-8PM

ARE YOU AN ORGANIZATION, BUSINESS, OR
NONPROFIT THAT HELPS THE DISABILITY
COMMUNITY? INTERESTED IN BEING A PART OF
THIS AMAZING EVENT? SCAN THE QR CODE TO
REGISTER TODAY!

FOR SPECIAL NEEDS FAMILIES
QUESTIONS? CONTACT SNAB SECRETARY VIRGINIA PINA VP@NEAPPELERS@GMAIL.COM
COSTUMES ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED! PLEASE KEEP THEM NOT TOO SPOOKY.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

DISABILITY BOOK WEEK IS DEDICATED TO CELEBRATING AND PROMOTING DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE LITERATURE THAT AUTHENTICALLY REPRESENTS THE DIVERSE EXPERIENCES OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES. DISABILITY BOOK WEEK AMPLIFIES VOICES, CHALLENGES STEREOTYPES, EDUCATES, AND FOSTERS A CULTURE OF UNDERSTANDING AND INCLUSION THROUGH THE POWER OF STORYTELLING.

WWW.DISABILITYBOOKWEEK.ORG

