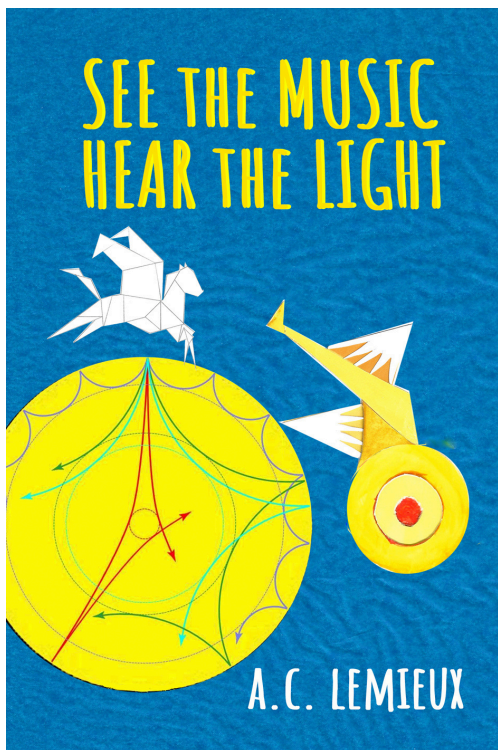


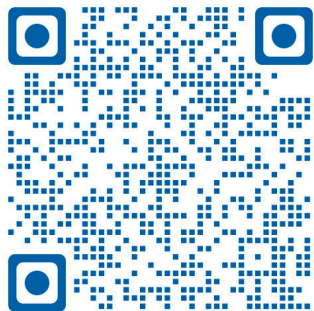
SEE THE MUSIC HEAR THE LIGHT

WHAT IF YOUR BIGGEST "DIFFERENCE" IS YOUR BIGGEST SUPERPOWER ?



Grades 6 - 9: General Education /
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Flesch Grade Level 4.2
Social Emotional Content Level Age 11+

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Freshman alto sax player Daniel James Durkin, Jr.'s two main drivers are making friends and making music.

Born with Williams syndrome, a.k.a. WS, a rare genetic condition, Daniel has both gifts and challenges. His sensory processing can be quirky. He often "sees" music in colors and "feels" some noises as bombardments. At times accurate spatial information fails to get from his eyes to his brain. Think trouble with stairs, puzzles, and maps. Never mind navigating the academic and social mazes of high school, or Marching Band field drills. Just finding his way to class can be tricky. And there's the always-lurking high-anxiety attacks, a WS "fringe benefit" ready to pounce, provoked by a fire alarm, or a bully-ambush by rival sax player and Snark-Bro Squad leader Richie, or a public squelching by the old crone, anti-tech social studies teacher.

Daniel gets by with a little help from his friends, artistic, bus-seat-saving Phoebe, lunch-bunch buddies Sallie and Dalton 1.6, Mrs. Staley from Resource Room, and his music mentors Mr. Beck and Kevin Russell. And the "spirit guide" of his deceased Marine musician dad. And his librarian mother, who's both a helper and a hoverer, at times impeding his goal of independence. But a serious Homecoming incident and a devastating betrayal that shatters a dream leave Daniel questioning his faith in others and his belief in himself.

Narrated in a first-person, often humorous, and distinctively WS voice based on lived family experience of Williams syndrome, *SEE THE MUSIC HEAR THE LIGHT* is both hopeful and unflinching. A luminous and different coming-of-age story, it offers a nuanced, anti-ableist portrait of a neurodivergent teen finding his way toward agency and belonging.

AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR A.C. (ANNE) LEMIEUX HAS WRITTEN TWELVE BOOKS FOR READERS FROM YOUNG ADULT & MIDDLE GRADE TO EASY-TO-READ CHAPTER BOOKS. SHE CURRENTLY LIVES IN BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT, WITH HER HUSBAND, TIM POCOCK & HER SON, BRENDAN LEMIEUX, CO-HOST OF THE STARRY-EYED PODCAST ABOUT "ALL THINGS WILLIAMS SYNDROME."

