

**LOOKING AT THINGS IN NEW WAYS:  
BOOKS FOR AND ABOUT CHILDREN WITH ASPERGERS OR AUTISM**

Compiled by Stephanie Smith - July, 2011

- E/Alt Altman, Alexandra. **WAITING FOR BENJAMIN; A STORY ABOUT AUTISM**. Ill. Susan Keeter. Albert Whitman, 2008. Alexander experiences feelings of disappointment, anger, embarrassment, and jealousy when his younger brother is diagnosed with autism. Gr. 1-3
- F/Bas Baskin, Nora Raleigh. **ANYTHING BUT TYPICAL**. Simon & Schuster, 2009.  
Jason, a twelve-year-old autistic boy who wants to become a writer, relates what his life is like as he tries to make sense of his world. Gr. 5-9
- F/Cho Choldenko, Gennifer. **AL CAPONE DOES MY SHIRTS**. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2004.  
A 12 year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister. Gr. 5-7
- F/Cro Crowley, Suzanne. **VERY ORDERED EXISTENCE OF MERILEE MARVELOUS**. Greenwillow, 2007.  
In the small town of Jumbo, Texas, thirteen-year old Merrille, who has Asperger's Syndrome, tries to live a "very ordered existence". But disruption begins when a boy and his father arrive in town and the youngster makes himself a part of the family. Ages 10-12
- F/Day Day, Alexandra. **FLIGHT OF A DOVE**. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2004.  
Four-year-old Betsy, an autistic child, begins to improve after she sees a dove, one of the animals at her preschool, fly into the air. PreK-2
- F/Doo Dooley, Sarah. **LIVVIE OWEN LIVED HERE**. Feiwel and Friends, 2010.  
Fourteen-year-old Livvie Owen, who has autism, and her family, has been forced to move frequently because of her outbursts, but when they face eviction again, Livvie is convinced she has a way to get back to a house where they were all happy, once. Gr. 5-7
- F/Ell Ellis, Deborah. **LOOKING FOR X**. Douglas & McIntyre, 2000.  
Living on public assistance with her single mom and five-year-old autistic twin brothers, Khyber retreats emotionally from others, trusting only a few adults, including a mysterious, homeless woman whom Khyber names X. Gr. 6-8
- F/ERS Erskine, Kathryn. **MOCKINGBIRD : MOK'ING-BÛRD**. Philomel, 2010.  
Ten-year-old Caitlin, who has Asperger's Syndrome, struggles to understand emotions, show empathy, and make friends at school, while at home she seeks closure by working on a project with her father. Gr. 4-7
- F/Geu Geus, Mireille. **PIGGY**. Translated by Nancy Forest-Flier. Front Street, 2005.  
Lizzie struggles to overcome the closed, internal world of autism when a new girl moves into her neighborhood, befriends her, then insists that Lizzie join her in seeking revenge on the boys who tease them. Gr. 5-8  
as episodes of a movie, modeled after entries typically found in the Internet Movie Database (IMDB) Ages 12+
- 616.8/Gin Ginsberg, Blaze. **EPISODES: MY LIFE AS I SEE IT**. Albert Whitman, 2009.  
Blaze Ginsberg, a young adult with high-functioning spectrum disorder creates titles, categories casts and plots for the different periods and moments in his life, describing them
- F/Kel Kelly, Tara. **HARMONIC FEEDBACK**. Henry Holt, 2010.  
When Drea and her mother move in with her grandmother in Bellingham, Washington, the sixteen-year-old finds that she can have real friends, in spite of her Asperger's, and that even when you love someone it doesn't make life perfect. Gr. 9-12
- F/Kot Kotchka. **THE BOY WHO ATE STARS**. Translated by Sarah Adams. Simon & Schuster, 2006.  
Upon moving to a new apartment, twelve-year-old Lucy befriends an autistic boy who lives upstairs and, along with her friend Theo and a pampered pooch, takes Matthew on neighborhood adventures hoping to open him up to the world around them. Gr. 4-8
- E/Lea Lears, Laurie. **IAN'S WALK : A STORY ABOUT AUTISM**. Ill. Karen Ritz. Albert Whitman, 1998  
A young girl realizes how much she cares for her autistic brother Ian when he gets lost at the park. Gr. 1-3

- F/Lor Lord, Cynthia. **RULES**. Scholastic, 2008.  
Frustrated at life with an autistic brother, twelve-year-old Catherine longs for a normal existence but her world is further complicated by a friendship with an young paraplegic. Gr. 4-7
- F/Mar Martin, Ann M. **A CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE**. Scholastic, 2002.  
The summer that Hattie turns twelve, she meets the childlike uncle she never knew and becomes friends with a girl who works at the carnival that comes to Hattie's small town. Gr. 6+
- F/Mat Matlin, Marlee and Doug Cooney. **NOBODY'S PERFECT**. Simon & Schuster, 2006.  
Upon moving to a new apartment, twelve-year-old Lucy befriends an autistic boy who lives upstairs and, along with her friend Theo and a pampered pooch, takes Matthew on neighborhood adventures hoping to open him up to the world around them. Gr. 4-6
- E/Pee Peete, Holly Robinson. **MY BROTHER CHARLIE**. Scholastic, 2010.  
A girl tells what it's like living with a twin, autistic brother who sometimes finds it hard to communicate with words, but who, in most ways, is just like any other boy. Inc. authors' note about autism. Ages 6-10
- E/Pel Pelley, Kathleen T. **MAGNUS MAXIMUS, A MARVELOUS MEASURER**. Farrar, 2010. As the town's official measurer, Magnus Maximus is obsessed with measuring and counting everything and everyone, missing out on life's simple pleasures, until one day when he breaks his glasses. Gr. K-3
- F/Pre Preller, James. **ALONG CAME SPIDER**. Scholastic, 2008.  
Fifth-grader Spider Stevens--nicknamed for his climbing ability--wrestles with his loyalty to his best friend versus friendship with the popular crowd. Gr. 3-5
- F/Rod Rodowsky, Colby F. **CLAY**. Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2001.  
After their parents' divorce, eleven-year-old Elsie and her younger brother Tommy, who is mentally "different," must deal with a terrible secret that causes them and their mother to move from place to place and stay in hiding. Gr. 5-8
- F/Sto Stork, Francisco X. **MARCELO IN THE REAL WORLD**. Arthur A. Levine. 2009  
Marcelo Sandoval, a seventeen-year-old boy on the high-functioning end of the autistic spectrum, faces new challenges, including romance and injustice, when he goes to work for his father in the mailroom of a corporate law firm. Ages 14+
- 618.92/Wat Watson, Esther. **TALKING TO ANGELS**. Harcourt Brace, 1996.  
A child tells about her autistic sister, who is also her best friend. The pictures are illustrated by the autistic girl. Ages 5-8

**Look for these books at other locations:**

- Amenta, Charles A. **RUSSELL IS EXTRA SPECIAL: A BOOK ABOUT AUTISM FOR**. Magination Press, 1992.  
Describes the daily life, likes and dislikes, and habits of Russell Amenta, who is a happy boy despite being severely autistic. PreK- 3
- Baldwin, Carol. **AUTISM**. Heinemann, 2003.  
Discusses the causes, symptoms, and treatment of autism and helps the reader understand the challenges that classmates with autism face at school and at home. Gr. 3-5
- Burns, Laura J. **THE CASE OF THE PRANK THAT STANK**. Razorbill, 2005.  
Seventh-graders Agatha Wong and Orville Wright, who has Asperger's syndrome, try to prove that the prank they organized did not cause the fire that burned down their rival school's field house. Gr. 4-8
- Choldenko, Gennifer. **AL CAPONE SHINES MY SHOES**. Dial, 2009.  
Moose Flanagan, who lives on Alcatraz along with his family and the families of the other prison guards, is frightened when he discovers that noted gangster Al Capone, a prisoner there, wants a favor in return for the help that he secretly gave Moose. Gr. 5-7

Dowd, Siobhan. **THE LONDON EYE MYSTERY**. David Fickling, 2008.

When Ted and Kat's cousin Salim disappears from the London Eye ferris wheel, the two siblings must work together--Ted with his brain that is "wired differently" and impatient Kat--to try to solve the mystery of what happened to Salim. Gr. 4-7

Edwards, Becky. **MY BROTHER SAMMY**. Millbrook, 1999.

A boy describes some of the many feelings he has about his brother Sammy, who is autistic. PreK-2

Ely, Lesley. **LOOKING AFTER LOUIS**. Albert Whitman, 2004.

When a new boy with autism joins their classroom, the children try to understand his world and to include him in theirs. Gr. 1-4

Frender, Sam. **BROTHERLY FEELINGS: ME, MY EMOTIONS, AND MY BROTHER WITH ASPERGER'S SYNDROME**. Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2007.

Explores the emotions that siblings of children with Asperger's Syndrome commonly experience. With illustrations throughout, this book will help siblings to understand that their emotional responses - whatever they are - are natural and ok. Gr. 1+

Hoopmann, Kathy. **ALL CATS HAVE ASPERGER SYNDROME**. Jessica Kingsley, 2006.

Taking a look at Asperger's syndrome (AS) in children, this book draws parallels between AS children and the behavior of cats, illustrating shared characteristics and evoking the difficulties and joys of raising a child who is different. All ages

Hoopmann, Kathy. **LISA AND THE LACEMAKER. AN ASPERGER ADVENTURE**. Jessica Kingsley, 2002.

Lisa, a girl with Asperger syndrome, discovers a series of basement rooms under her friend Ben's house and spends hours exploring the remnants of a past era. Gr. 3-5

Lennard-Brown, Sarah. **AUTISM**. Raintree, 2004.

This book explains how the world may seem to people with autism, including people with high-functioning autism and Asperger's Syndrome. It looks at theories about the causes of autism and at the therapies and strategies designed to make everyday life easier. Gr. 4-8

Patneaude, David. **COLDER THAN ICE**. Albert Whitman, 2003.

Josh Showalter, an insecure and overweight sixth-grader, hopes for a new start when he transfers to a school in northern Idaho, but he and his new friends are soon targets of a cold-hearted bully. Gr. 4-7

Rosenberg, Marsha Sarah. **EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW WHEN A BROTHER OR SISTER IS AUTISTIC**. Rosen, 2000.

Discusses what autism is, how it is diagnosed and treated, and ways that siblings of people with autism can find support. Gr. 4-8

Shapiro, Ouisie. **AUTISM AND ME: SIBLING STORIES**. Photographs. Steven Vote. Albert Whitman, 2009.

Children tell their story of what it is like to live with a sibling who has autism. Gr. 3-6

Schnurr, Rosina G. **ASPERGER'S, HUH? : A CHILD'S PERSPECTIVE**. Ill. John Strachan. Anisor, 1999.

Written from the perspective of an 11-year-old boy who has just been diagnosed with Aspergers, the book explains the disorder, offers reassurance and gives practical suggestions. Ages 6-12

Thompson, Mary. **ANDY AND HIS YELLOW FRISBEE**. Woodbine House, 1996.

The new girl at school tries to befriend Andy, an autistic boy who spends every recess by himself, spinning a yellow frisbee under the watchful eye of his older sister. Gr. 1-3

Though Trevor doesn't seem to socially fit into the class he does become its hero. Gr. K-4

Tourville, Amanda Doering. **MY FRIEND HAS AUTISM**. Picture Window Books, 2010.

Explains some of the challenges and rewards of having a friend with autism, including encouraging activities they like and providing understanding of their symptoms. Gr. K-3

Twachtman-Cullen, Diane. **TREVOR, TREVOR: A METAPHOR FOR CHILDREN**. Ill. Deidre Sassano.

Starfish, 1998. Diane Twachtman-Cullen uses metaphor to tell the story of Trevor, a primary school aged child whose problems with social relationships suggest a form of autism. Gr. Preschool

Van Niekerk, Clarabelle. **UNDERSTANDING SAM AND ASPERGER SYNDROME**. Skeeze Press, 2008.

Answering the question "Why is Sam different?," this heartwarming story tells of the challenges of living with Asperger Syndrome, a form of autism. This firsthand view of the life of an undiagnosed child presents behaviors and characteristics that are common among children with this disorder. Ages 5+