

## Unit on Realistic Fiction about Characters with Disabilities

For 6th-8th grades

If anyone has basic lesson ideas or books to add to this list, please feel free to write on the doc!

The books in bold I have already used. I need to relook at them and the others. I would also like to come up with an overarching lesson or two to help students learn about disability identity and ableism.

- Adapt/create a power and justice lesson--kids can apply things they know from our work on race, gender and class.
- Apply Fries Test and/or Gold Test.
- Bring in voices of disabled people to make critiquing more nuanced
- Brainstorm stereotypes--what do you picture when you think of someone who is blind? Etc.
- Myths and facts
- Look for tropes--maybe use political cartoons for stereotypes
- Use Crip Camp Lessons as a frame?

(From our past work on ableism)

Ableism--some teaching tolerance lessons--learning for justice

<https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/understanding-disabilities>

Asking people about ableism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4skSrBRaJo>

Students will choose the book they want to read from this list and present it to the class with a focus on disability identity.

Bibliography--Characters with Disabilities--Realistic Fiction

*El Deafo --Cece Bell*

*Rules --Cynthia Lord*

*Rain Reign--Ann Martin*

*Out of My Mind --Sharon Draper*

*Song for a Whale--Lynne Kelly*

*Wonder --R.J. Palacio*

*War that Saved My Life—Kimberly Brubaker Bradley*

*Mango Shaped Space--Wendy Mass*

*Mockingbird--Kathryn Erskine*

*As Brave As You--Jason Reynolds*

*What the Wind Can Tell You --Sarah Marie A. Jette*

*Show Me a Sign—Ann Clare LeZotte*

*Blind Guide to Stinkville—Beth Vrabel*

*Good Enough—Jen Petro-Roy*

*Challenger Deep—Neal Shusterman*

*For Black Girls Like Me—Mariama Lockington*

*London Eye Mystery—Siobhan Dowd*

*Fish in a Tree—Lynda Mullaly Hunt*

*Anything but Typical—Nora Baskin*

*Tune It Out—Jamie Sumner*

*Not if I Can Help It--Carolyn Mackler*

*Where the Watermelons Grow--Cindy Baldwin*

