Autism Awareness Month… that’s the official title, but we prefer: **Autism Acceptance Month**

**Picture Books**

* A Day with No Words, by Tiffany Hammond
* Bitsy Bat, School Star, by Kaz Windness
* How Are You, Verity?, by Meghan Wilson Duff
* This Beach is Loud!, by Samantha Cotterill
  + This book is part of the author’s Little Senses series which also includes: It Was Supposed to be Sunny, Can I Play Too?, and Nope, Never, Not for Me!
* Benji, the Bad Day, and Me, by Sally Pla
* I am Odd, I am New, by Benjamin Giroux
* Remarkable Remy, by Melanie Heyworth
* The Big Worry Day, by K.A. Reynolds
* Why Johnny Doesn’t Flap: NT is OK!, by Clay Morton and Gail Morton
* Too Sticky!: Sensory Issues with Autism, by Jen Malia
* Next Level, by Samara Cole Doyon
* Pedro’s Whale, by Paula Kluth Ph. D., and Patrick Schwarz Ph. D.
* Really Really Like Me, by Gretchen Leary
* Pablo and the Noisy Party
  + This book is part of a book series based on an animated TV series which also includes: Pablo at the Zoo, Pablo Goes Shopping, Pablo Picks His Shoes, and Pablo’s Feelings
* We Move Together, by Kelly Fritsch, Anne McGuire, and Eduardo Trejos – about more than only Autism, a valuable book look at disability culture and community including a comprehensive [educator guide](https://wemovetogether.ca/resources/WMT-LearningGuide-v01.pdf)
* The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin, by Julia Finley Mosca
* Noah Chases the Wind, by Michelle Worthington

**Chapter Books and Middle Grade**

* Can You See Me?, by Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott
* Ido in Autismland, by Ido Kedar
* A Boy Called BAT, by Elana K. Arnold – and bonus, this is the first book in a series.
* The Someday Birds, by Sally J. Pla
* Anything But Typical, by Nora Raleigh Baskin
* Rules, by Cynthia Lord
* Slug Days, by Sara Leach
* Tornado Brain, by Cat Patrick
* Counting by 7s, by Holly Goldberg Sloan
* The Unlikely Heroes Club, by Kate Foster
* Planet Earth is Blue, by Nicole Panteleakos
* The Way to Be, by Kat Yeh
* Get a Grip, Vivy Cohen!, by Sarah Kapit
* Rogue, by Lyn Miller-Lachmann
* Forever Neverland, by Susan Adrian
* A Kind of Spark, by Ellie McNicoll
* Good Different, by Meg Eden Kutyatt
* Ellen Outside the Lines, by A.J. Sass
* Izzy at the End of the World, by K.A. Reynolds
* Paige Not Found, by Jen Wilde
* The View from the Very Best House in Town, by Meera Trehan

**YA Books**

* The Reason I Jump, by Naoki Higashida
* The State of Grace, by Rachael Lucas
* On the Edge of Gone, by Corinne Duyvis
* The Boys in the Back Row, by Mike Jung
* Even If We Break, by Marieke Nijkamp
* Unbroken, by Marieke Nijkamp
* The Brightsiders, by Jen Wilde
* The Many Half-Lived Lives of Sam Sylvester, by May MacGregor
* The Spirit Bares Its Teeth, by Andrew Joseph White
* Unseelie, by Ivelisse Housman
* The ‘Luis Ortega’ Survival Club, by Sonroa Reyes
* Something More, by Jackie Khalilieh
* Margo Zimmerman Gets the Girl, by Brianna R. Shrum and Sara Waxelbaum
* Daniel Deconstructed, by James Ramos
* Tilly in Technicolor, by Mazey Eddings

**Websites**

* The Autism Books by Autistic Authors Project: <https://autismbooksbyautisticauthors.com/>
* Paula Kluth’s Top 10 Tips for Teachers: <https://brookespublishing.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/kluths_top_ten_tips.pdf>
* WQSB: <https://westernquebec.ca/autism/>
* Centre of Excellence Autism Spectrum Disorder: <https://coeasd.lbpsb.qc.ca/>
* The World Needs All Kinds of Minds: <https://ed.ted.com/lessons/the-world-needs-all-kinds-of-minds-temple-grandin>
* We Need Diverse Books, Autism: <https://diversebooks.org/?s=Autism>

**Important Note**

There has been a lot of discussion around the issue of autistic representation in books and how it can be damaging, and the conversation is ongoing – as it must be if people are going to learn things like not every person on the spectrum is a savant, or non-verbal, or has the same sensory preferences one to the next. Or worse, holding a neurodivergent character up as a problem to be solved or a challenge to rise to for other characters – like in the movie Rain Man.

Representation is getting better, and the body of work by Autistic authors and about Autistic characters is growing. The titles I’ve listed here have been positively reviewed in the way characters are portrayed – by readers on the spectrum, professionals who work with children on the spectrum, and in some cases by parents of children with Autism. But of course, we must remember that groups of people are not monoliths, and some may disagree. The conversations and the learning must continue.