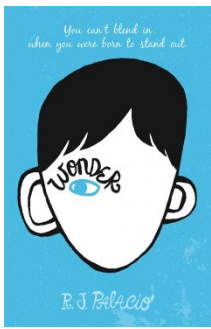


Possible Book Options for the Empathy Theme



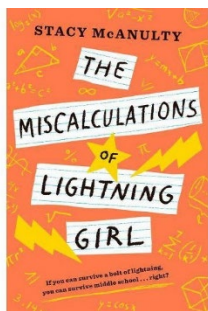
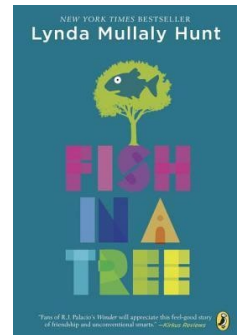
Wonder by R. J. Palacio

August (Auggie) Pullman was born with a severe facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, Auggie wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past his extraordinary face.

Consider how Auggie's classmates learn tolerance through their interactions with him.

Fish In a Tree by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

Ally has been smart enough to fool a lot of smart people. Every time she lands in a new school, she is able to hide her inability to read by creating clever yet disruptive distractions. She is afraid to ask for help; after all, how can you cure dumb? However, her newest teacher Mr. Daniels sees the bright, creative kid underneath the trouble maker. With his help, Ally learns not to be so hard on herself and that dyslexia is nothing to be ashamed of. As her confidence grows, Ally feels free to be herself and the world starts opening up with possibilities. She discovers that there's a lot more to her—and to everyone—than a label, and that great minds don't always think alike.



In The Miscalculations of Lightning Girl, Lucy survived a lightning strike that left her with genius-level math talent -- and obsessive compulsive disorder. She's only 12 and capable of starting college, but her grandmother enrolls her in middle school to spend time with kids her age. Though Lucy downplays her math skills to try to fit in, she can't hide her OCD routines from snickering classmates. She falls into friendship with kind Windy, who wants to save the world, and cynical Levi, who regards everyone through his camera lens. As they work together on a service project at a local shelter, Lucy struggles to unlock the right formula to manage the everyday ups and downs of middle school.

In the nonfiction text, EI Deafo by Cece Bell, a bout with meningitis at age 4 leaves Cece with impaired hearing. As she goes off to first grade, she wears the Phonic Ear, a giant hearing aid strapped to her chest. Although she can understand some conversations, she still misses a lot of what's being said by those around her. She wants nothing more than to have a best friend, but can the Phonic Ear provide a way to find one? This is a graphic memoir about growing up with a hearing impairment.



Leo Borlock follows the unspoken rule at Mica Area High School: don't stand out--under any circumstances! Then Stargirl arrives at Mica High and everything changes--for Leo and for the entire school. After 15 years of homeschooling, Stargirl bursts into tenth grade in an explosion of color and a clatter of ukulele music, enchanting the Mica student body. But the delicate scales of popularity suddenly shift, and Stargirl is shunned for everything that makes her different. Somewhere in the midst of Stargirl's arrival and rise and fall, normal Leo Borlock has tumbled into love with her. In a celebration of nonconformity, Jerry Spinelli weaves a tense, emotional tale about the fleeting, cruel nature of popularity--and the thrill and inspiration of first love in Stargirl.

Knowing that students can choose any book about empathy, here are a few other options. Please take some time to look up these books and discuss which one might be best for your child and meet the expectations of your family.

Orbiting Jupiter by Gary D. Schmidt

Front Desk by Kelly Yang

Three Keys by Kelly Yang (book 2 in Front Desk series)

Raymie Nightingale by Kate DiCamillo

Roll with it by Jamie Sumner

Lily and Dunkin by Donna Gephart (TG)

Same Sun Here by Silas House

Because of Mr. Terupt by Rob Buyea

Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine

When Stars are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson

The One and Only Bob by Katherine Applegate

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson

The Bridge Home by Padma Venkatraman

The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise by Dan Gemeinhart

The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis

How to Steal a Dog by Barbara O'Connor

The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor

Ghost by Jason Reynolds

Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick