

The Reading Agency's April Booklist for Children and Young People Autism



We have created a list of brilliant books for children and young people written predominantly by autistic authors and representing a diverse range of experiences, stories and voices. We have used identity first language (autistic) in line with current best practice, unless a different term has been used by an autistic author in their work.

We are proud to have worked with Autistic UK on the creation of this booklist. Autistic UK is an Autistic People's Organisation (APO) – an organisation run by autistic people for autistic people. It aims to advance the interests of all autistic people and those with related neurodevelopmental conditions, to promote and protect the civil and human rights of the autistic population and to campaign for the enforcement of the legislation which guarantees their rights. Find out more about Autistic UK at autisticuk.org or follow them on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/autisticuk).

Please note that the titles in this list are suggestions from The Reading Agency's Reading Partners Programme, our publisher partners and Autistic UK rather than professionally endorsed recommendations. This list has not been developed through our Reading Well programme and its book selection methodology.

Meet the Twitches by Hayley Scott, illustrated by Pippa Curnick (Usborne)
ISBN: 9781474928120

Meet the Twitches, four tiny rabbits who live inside a Teacup House. They belong to a girl called Stevie and she loves playing with them. But guess what? These toy rabbits have a secret. They come alive when Stevie isn't looking! Open up the Teacup House - and meet four little rabbit heroes with big ideas!

- Author is autistic

***Pablo and the Noisy Party* by Andrew Brenner and Sumita Majumdar (Ladybird)**

ISBN: 9780241415740

Pablo's mum takes him to his cousin Lorna's birthday party, but Pablo gets scared of the noisy party. Pablo hides in the car, and soon his friends come to join him. Pablo's friends help him realise that it's OK if he doesn't want to go to the party. This lovely and heart-warming story will help readers understand that not everybody thinks the same way, and that some people feel differently about parties.

- Author (Sumita) is autistic

***Lost for Words* by Aoife Walsh (Andersen Press)**

ISBN: 9781783448340

Dallas's life was turned upside down the day her mum was killed in a traffic accident. Now she lives with her brothers, step-sister and her mum's partner Gemma in a too-small house filled with bickering and grief. As the end of primary school approaches, Dallas learns that the local library has run out of funding and will soon be closing. Dallas decides she cannot let another thing she loves be lost. Together with her friends Aiza and Ruby, and her freewheeling American aunt Jessi, she starts a campaign to save the library for everyone. A beautifully told tale about family, grief and growing up.

- Author is autistic

***Ways to Be Me* by Libby Scott with Rebecca Westcott (Scholastic)**

ISBN: 9780702308352

Being in the top class at school means a whole host of privileges, but even better than that is the school production - and 10-year-old Tally is convinced she'll win the lead role. But at home, things aren't going so well. Mum and Dad have been making Tally feel pressured and upset, and Tally wishes things didn't bother her so much - but they do, and sometimes she feels so misunderstood and frustrated, she could explode. Then Tally's mum and dad tell her about something she's never heard about before. Something called autism. And everything changes. The third book written in collaboration with Libby Scott and prequel to the bestselling *Can You See Me?*

- Author (Libby Scott) is autistic
- Lead character is autistic

***How to Save the World with a Chicken and an Egg* by Emma Shevah (Chicken House)**

ISBN: 9781910655474

This story isn't just about birds. It's about secrets, the seaside, how seagulls can trick worms into thinking it's raining. It's about mucus, fudge and dogs needing a wide variety of sniffs. But if you want the simple version, it's about how a girl called Ivy and a boy called Nathaniel solved a mystery and saved the world's animals: one at a time. A brand new topical and heartfelt middle grade adventure from the critically acclaimed writer of *Dream on*, *Amber* and *Dara Palmer's Major Drama*. A terrific positive-action mystery in the wake of Greta Thunberg - perfect for eco-aware young readers!

- Lead character (Nathaniel) is autistic

***Show Us Who You Are* by Elle McNicoll (Knights Of)**

ISBN: 9781913311131

The second book from the author of *A Kind Of Spark*, with Neurodivergent characters you'll root for and a moving friendship at its heart. When Cora's brother drags her along to his boss's house, she doesn't expect to strike up a friendship with Adrien, son of the intimidating CEO of Pomegranate Technologies. As she becomes part of Adrien's life, she is also drawn into the mysterious projects at Pomegranate. At first, she's intrigued by them - Pomegranate is using AI to recreate real people in hologram form. As she digs deeper, however, she uncovers darker secrets... Cora knows she must unravel their plans, but can she fight to make her voice heard, whilst never losing sight of herself?

- Author is autistic
- Lead character is autistic

***The State of Grace* by Rachael Lucas (Macmillan Children's Books)**

ISBN: 9781509839551

'Sometimes I feel like everyone else was handed a copy of the rules for life and mine got lost.'

Grace is autistic and has her own way of looking at the world. She's got a horse and a best friend who understand her, and that's pretty much all she needs. But when Grace kisses Gabe and things start to change at home, the world doesn't make much sense to her anymore. Suddenly everything threatens to fall apart, and it's up to Grace to fix it on her own.

- Author is autistic
- Lead character is autistic

***Frankie's World* by Aoife Dooley (Scholastic)**

ISBN: 9780702307355

Frankie knows she's not like anyone else in her class: she's different, but she can't quite figure out why. Is it the new freckle on her nose, or the fact she's small for her age? Or that she has to go to the hospital sometimes? Everyone else seems to think she's weird too, and they make fun of her at school. Frankie's dad left when she was a baby - maybe he was different too? So, she and her best-friend Sam embark on a mission to track him down. This is a brightly coloured graphic novel offering a unique perspective on autism, told with humour and heart.

- Author is autistic
- Lead character is autistic

YOUNG ADULT

***Queerly Autistic: The Ultimate Guide For LGBTQIA+ Teens On The Spectrum* by Erin Ekins (Jessica Kingsley Publishing)**

ISBN: 9781787751712

In this empowering and honest guide for LGBTQIA+ autistic teens, Erin Ekins gives you all the tools you need to figure out and explore your gender identity and sexuality. From coming out to friends and family, staying safe in relationships and practicing safe sex, through to self-care and coping with bullying, being out and about in the LGBTQIA+ community and undergoing gender transition, this book is filled with essential information,

advice, support and resources to help you on your journey, and also works as a primer on all things LGBTQIA+ for non-autistic teens who are just figuring it all out. Written by an inspirational autistic queer woman, this is a must-read for every autistic teen wanting to live their very best queer life.

- Author is autistic

***The Paper & Hearts Society: Book 1* by Lucy Powrie (Hachette Children's Group)**

ISBN: 9781444949230

A brand-new series from Booktuber Lucy Powrie. Tabby Brown is tired of trying to fit in. She doesn't want to go to parties - in fact, she would much rather snuggle up on the sofa with her favourite book. It's like she hasn't found her people. Then Tabby joins a club that promises to celebrate books. What could go wrong? EVERYTHING - especially when making new friends brings out an AWKWARD BUZZING feeling all over her body. But Olivia, Cassie, Henry and Ed have something that makes Tabby come back. Maybe it's the Austen-themed fancy-dress parties, or Ed's fluffy cat Mrs Simpkins, or could it be Henry himself... Can Tabby let her weird out AND live THE BEST BOOKISH LIFE POSSIBLE?

- Author is autistic

***The Infinite* by Patience Agbabi (Canongate)**

ISBN: 9781786899651

Leaplings, children born on the 29th of February, are very rare. Rarer still are Leaplings with The Gift - the ability to leap through time. Elle Bibi-Imbele Ifie has The Gift, but she's never used it. Until now. On her twelfth birthday, Elle and her best friend Big Ben travel to the Time Squad Centre in 2048. Elle has received a mysterious warning from the future. Other Leaplings are disappearing in time - and not everyone at the centre can be trusted. Soon Elle's adventure becomes more than a race through time. It's a race against time. She must fight to save the world as she knows it - before it ceases to exist...

- Lead character is autistic

***Autism, Bullying and Me* by Emily Lovegrove (Jessica Kingsley Publishing)**

ISBN: 9781787752139

This accessible guide for autistic children and teens is full of advice for coping successfully with bullying. It helps the reader understand what bullying is and debunks myths such as 'bullying makes you stronger'. It also lays out self-empowering strategies and practical tips on how to deal with situations where they are being bullied.

- Author is autistic

***M is for Autism* by the students of Limsfield Grange School with Vicky Martin and a foreword by Robert Pritchett (Jessica Kingsley Publishers)**

ISBN: 9781849056847

Welcome to M's world. It's tipsy-turvy, sweet and sour, and the beast of anxiety lurks outside classrooms ready to pounce. M just wants to be like other teenagers her age who always know what to say and what to do. So why does it feel like she lives on a different plane of existence to everyone else? Written by the students of Limsfield Grange, a school for girls with Autism Spectrum Disorder with communication and interaction

difficulties, M is for Autism draws on real life experiences to create a heartfelt and humorous novel that captures the highs and lows of being different in a world of normal.

- Student authors are autistic

***Queens of Geek* by Jen Wilde (Swoon Reads)**

ISBN: 9781250111395

Charlie likes to stand out. She's a vlogger and actress promoting her first movie at SupaCon, and this is her chance to show fans she's over her public breakup with co-star Reese Ryan. When internet famous cool girl actress Alyssa Huntington arrives as a surprise guest, it seems Charlie's long-time crush on her isn't as one-sided as she thought. Taylor likes to blend in. Her brain is wired differently, making her fear change. And there's one thing in her life she knows will never change: her friendship with her best guy friend Jamie - no matter how much she may secretly want it to. But when she hears about a fan contest for her favourite fandom, she starts to rethink her rules on playing it safe.

- Author is autistic