

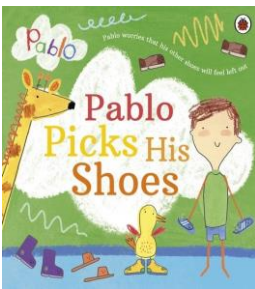
Neurodiverse Book Collection 2024

Neurodiversity refers to the way the brain works and interprets information. Estimates suggest that around 1 in 7 of the UK population is neurodivergent, meaning that the brain functions, learns and processes information differently to someone who is neurotypical. Neurodivergence can include ADD, ADHD, autism, dyscalculia, dyslexia, dyspraxia, executive dysfunction, OCD, stammering, Tourette's, tics and stimming amongst others. Neurodivergent people often experience more than one of these conditions.

We believe that books are a great way to raise awareness and improve understanding of different experiences. Books can be a helpful tool in opening children up to different realities and perspectives and help to counter misconceptions. They can also help children to feel seen and understood. We've put together this collection of 25 books that feature children and families' stories of neurodiversity.

Key Stage 1:

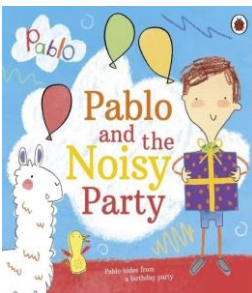
* Accelerated Reader



Pablo Picks His Shoes - Pablo: KS1

Pablo thinks differently, he has autism and uses his creativity to understand the world around him. Pablo draws the Book Animals, and together they help each other face the world with confidence. Pablo and the Book Animals worry that Pablo's shoes will feel left out if they don't come on a trip to Granny's house. What clever solution will Pablo and his resourceful friends think of this time?

[Pablo: Pablo Picks His Shoes \(penguin.co.uk\)](https://penguin.co.uk)



Pablo and the Noisy Party - Pablo: KS1

Pablo thinks differently...when he goes to his cousin's birthday, he gets scared of the noise and hides in the car. His friends come to join him and help him realise that it's OK if he doesn't want to go to the party. This heartwarming story will help readers to understand that not everybody thinks the same way, and some people feel differently about parties.

[Pablo: Pablo and the Noisy Party \(penguin.co.uk\)](https://penguin.co.uk)



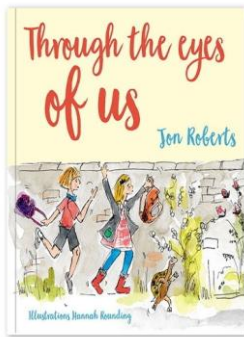
Leo and the Octopus – Isabelle Marinov: KS1

Leo is a curious child, but he feels different from the other children in his class, and the noisy classroom upsets him. When he meets Maya the Octopus, he builds a friendship that assures him he is not alone. A thoughtful and perceptive story about a child with Asperger's Syndrome and the special bond he forms with one of Earth's most astonishing creatures.

[Leo And The Octopus — Isabelle Marinov](#)

Teaching resources:

[Leo and the Octopus | Literacy Tree](#)



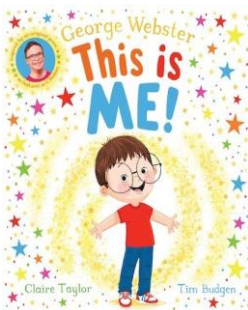
Through the Eyes of Us – Jon Roberts: KS1

Sequel to the highly acclaimed Through the Eyes of Me, this book gives a joyful insight into the world of children with autism and helps to understand their unique experiences.

[Through the Eyes of Us – Graffeg Books](#)

Teaching resources:

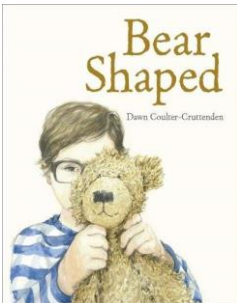
<https://www.literacysshedplus.com/resource/through-the-eyes-of-me-by-jon-roberts-en-gb>



This is Me! - George Webster: KS1

Inspired by a poem, and joining forces with co-author Claire Taylor, this book shares George's wisdom and zest for life in a celebration of diversity, friendship and being yourself. Through vibrant illustrations and rhyming text, George, who is a child with Down syndrome, introduces us to his family, hobbies, and interests.

[This is Me! - Scholastic](#)



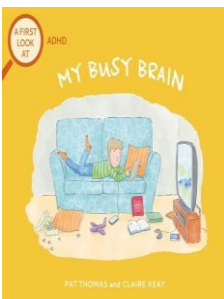
Bear Shaped – Dawn Coulter-Cruttenden: KS1*

Bear Shaped is a heartwarming, true story about a boy and his beloved bear. Jack is a young boy on the autistic spectrum and the way his world is portrayed in this story is very realistic and allows the reader to understand immediately why Bear was such a special and important part of Jack's life.

[Bear Shaped – Dawn Coulter-Cruttenden](#)

Teaching resources:

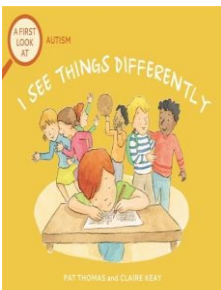
<http://www.lovemybooks.co.uk/bear-shaped>



A First Look at ADHD: My Busy Brain – Pat Thomas: KS1

Providing a simple introduction to ADHD, this book aims to promote ongoing discussion with children who have ADHD or those who have siblings or classmates with it. Explaining what ADHD is, and what it feels like from the child's perspective, the book acknowledges the difficulties those who do not have the condition have sometimes when trying to understand those who do.

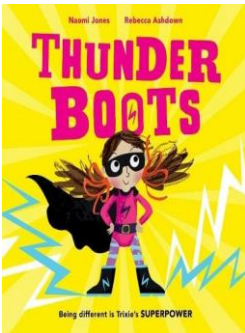
[A First Look – ADHD: My Busy Brain - Hachette](#)



A First Look at Autism: I See Things Differently – Pat Thomas: KS1

This reassuring picture book explains what autism is in simple terms helping all children gain a better understanding. It includes occasional prompts throughout the text to giving opportunity for discussion. Part of an acclaimed and successful series of EY picture books providing advice on how to promote interaction on a variety of personal, emotional, and social issues, these books are excellent tools for teachers.

[A First Look At – autism - Hachette](#)



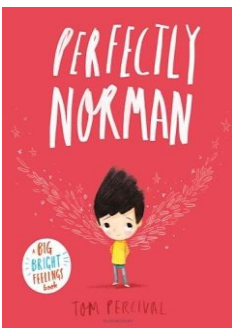
Thunder Boots – Naomi Jones: KS1

Trixie is the smallest person in Primrose Tower, but also the loudest and the building's residents have given her an affectionate THUNDERBOOTS. When it's time for Trixie to start school, she is extremely excited. Sometimes it's hard to concentrate in class, though. And it's hard to read letters. Maybe what Trixie needs is a superpowered plan. An empowering story about starting school with dyslexia that celebrates everyone's differences.

[Thunder Boots – Oxford University Press](#)

Teaching resources:

[Thunder Boots superhero sheet – Oxford Owl](#)



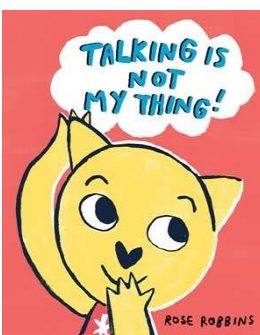
Perfectly Norman – Tom Percival: KS1*

A poignant and uplifting story celebrating individuality and diversity filled with stunning artwork. A beautiful story about a boy with wings who learns to be himself and inspires others to soar too. The perfect book about facing fears, self-acceptance and having the courage to be yourself.

[Perfectly Norman - Bloomsbury](#)

Teaching resources:

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/discover/childrens/big-bright-feelings/perfectly-norman/>



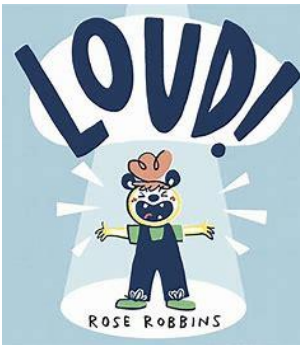
Talking Is Not My Thing – Rose Robbins: KS1

Explores the everyday life and routines of a young non-verbal autistic girl. She communicates to the reader in thought bubbles in contrast to her brother, who speaks to her in speech bubbles, and we see her using different types of non-verbal communication, such as flashcards and high-fives. Charmingly illustrated by the author.

[Talking is not my thing – Scallywag press](#)

Teaching resources:

https://scallywagpress.com/docs/TalkingIsNotMyThing_TeachingNotes.pdf



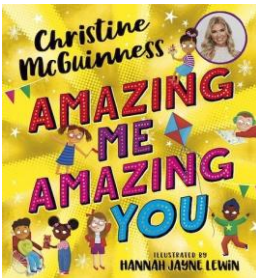
Loud! – Rose Robbins: KS1

An engaging picture book celebrating children striving to be heard. Readers will identify with the protagonist Abigail, who displays symptoms of ADHD, and with the right encouragement, ends up triumphing.

[Loud! - Scallywag Press](#)

Teaching Resources:

[LOUD! sensory storytelling - Scottish Book Trust](#)



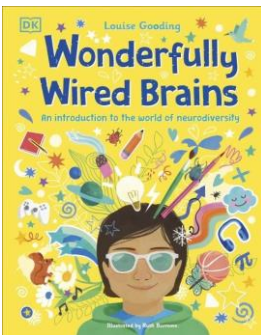
Amazing Me, Amazing You – Christine McGuinness: KS1

This picture book celebrates all children promoting the message of patience, kindness and understanding. The first children's book from autism ambassador, Christine McGuinness, shows just how important it is to embrace diversity and inclusivity, highlighting how much it means to accept each other and our uniqueness, just the way we are.

[Amazing Me, Amazing You - Scholastic Shop](#)

Key Stage 2:

*** Accelerated Reader**



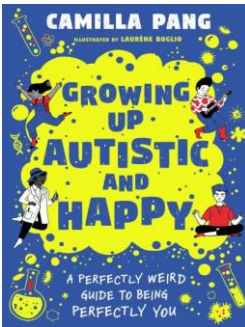
Wonderfully Wired Brains – Louise Gooding: KS2

Wonderfully Wired Brains teaches children aged 7-9 all about the amazing abilities that neurodiverse individuals have, introduces them to advocates who are challenging neurodiversity stereotypes, and most importantly gives them a safe space to feel accepted.

[Wonderfully Wired Brains – Louise Gooding \(DK\)](#)

Teaching resources:

[The real human brain: Louise Gooding and her book, Wonderfully Wired Brains \(twinkl.co.uk\)](#)



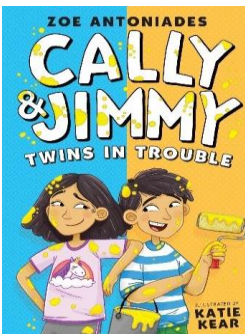
Growing Up Autistic and Happy – Camilla Pang: KS2

In this unique and brilliant book, Camilla Pang shares her scientific survival guide to growing up, helping neurodiverse young readers navigate the world around them, giving them the courage to grow up perfectly happy in who they are.

[Growing Up Autistic & Happy –Next Page Books](#)

Teaching resources:

[National Autism Society interview with Camilla Pang](#)



Cally & Jimmy: Twins in Trouble – Zoe Antoniadis: KS2*

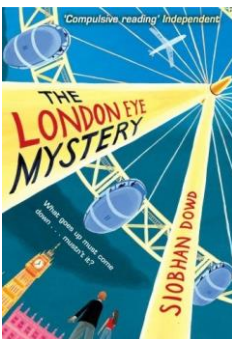
Join Cally and Jimmy in four hilarious stories, perfect for newly confident readers. They get into scrapes together, bake some poisonous cakes, almost ruin their school assembly, and finally have a twintastic birthday party. This collection of four stories is funny, touching and enlightening, capturing the hilarity and chaos of life in a complex family.

[Cally & Jimmy: Twins in Trouble – Anderson Press](#)

Teaching resources:

<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/virtual-school-library/author-week-zoe-antoniades/>

[Draw along with illustrator](#)



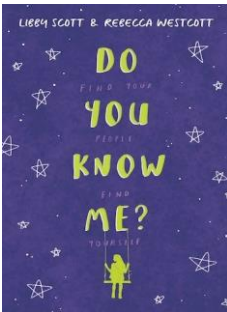
The London Eye Mystery – Siobhan Dowd: KS2*

The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd is a novel for young readers about a young boy with Aspergers Syndrome named [Ted](#) who teams up with his sister to figure out how their cousin disappeared while riding a giant Ferris wheel.

[The London Eye Mystery - Penguin](#)

Teaching resources:

<https://www.literacyshedplus.com/en-us/resource/the-london-eye-mystery-by-siobhan-dowd-9-11-en-gb>



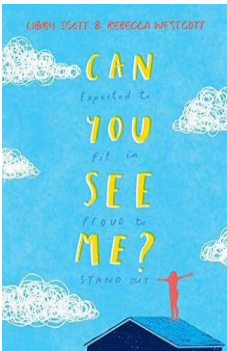
Do You Know Me – Libby Scott & Rebecca Westcott: KS2*

Following the wonderfully insightful *Can You See Me?* Rebecca Westcott and Libby Scott return with another novel starring the brilliant, autistic, and true-to-her-own-self heroine Tally. *Do You Know Me?* explores some of the most crucial issues in a young person's life – loyalty, acceptance and the intricacies of social interaction – in a moving, illuminating story of friendship and courage.

[Do You Know Me - Scholastic](#)

Teaching resources:

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/chapter-one/libby-scott-rebecca-westcott>



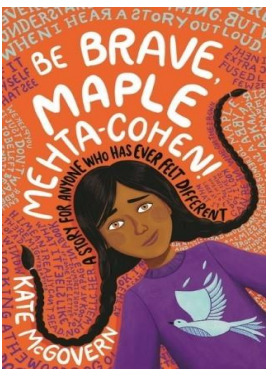
Can You See Me? - Libby Scott & Rebecca Westcott: KS2*

Tally is autistic, but she hides it as much as she can as she knows how uncomfortable people feel around her – they don't understand autism and they don't understand her. By masking her autism, Tally is hiding her real self, but it can't stay hidden forever. An authentic and powerful collaboration between two authors, this book will change the way you think about autism.

[Can You See me? - Scholastic](#)

Teaching Resources:

<https://resource-bank.scholastic.co.uk/resources/425789>



Be Brave Maple Mehta-Cohen – Kate McGovern: KS2

A warm and contemporary story for anyone who has ever felt different. Maple, a girl with dyslexia, hides the fact she can't read, until her Y5 teacher figures it out. Readers who have faced their own trials with school and friendships will enjoy this heartwarming story and its bright creative heroine.

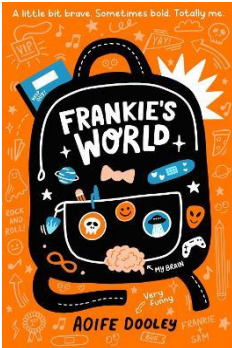
[Be brave Maple Mehta-Cohen – Walker Books](#)



Meesha Makes Friends – Tom Percival: KS2*

Meesha loves making things . . . but there's one thing she finds difficult to make – friends. She doesn't know quite what to do, what to say or when to say it. But one day she discovers that she has a special talent that might just help her navigate social situations - and even make new friends. A warm and affectionate look at the joys and difficulties of making and keeping friends, relating to others, and finding your place in the world.

[Meesha Makes Friends - Bloomsbury](#)



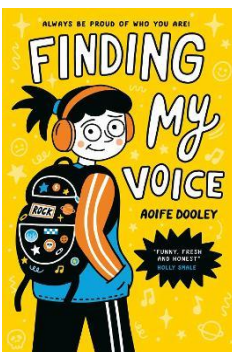
Frankie's World – Aoife Dooley: KS2*

First in the series of Frankie's World graphic novels about fitting in and standing out. Packed with dynamic illustration, this book offers a unique perspective on living with autism as Frankie and her best friend embark on a mission to find Frankie's absent father. Maybe he was different too, which could explain why she always felt like an alien. Told with humour and heart, Frankie's World is a laugh out loud tribute to daring to be different.

[Frankie's World - Scholastic](#)

Teaching Resources:

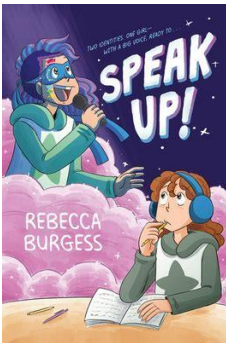
[Frankies-world-lesson-plans-pdf](#)



Finding My Voice – Aoife Dooley: KS2

The sequel to Frankie's World finds her starting secondary school and concerned about fitting in and there are so many rules to follow, like being quiet...talking is Frankie's coping mechanism! She couldn't be more excited when joins the Battle of the bands contest, but you need to have band members, which means you need to be good at making friends. A funny, positive book which will prompt discussions around empathy and individual uniqueness.

[Frankie's World #2: Finding My Voice - Scholastic](#)



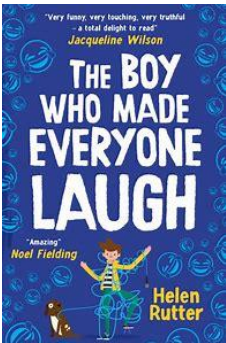
Speak Up! – Rebecca Burgess: KS2

This graphic novel explores twelve-year-old Mia's struggles with autism and bullying. In a world where everyone defines her by her differences, she discovers friendship where it's least expected and the inner strength to express her true self.

[Speak Up! - Harper Collins](#)

Teaching Resources:

[Literacy Shed Plus - Literacy Shed Plus - Teaching Resources Made Easy](#)



The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh – Helen Rutter: KS2

An hilarious story about a boy overcoming his fears to realise his dreams. Billy, an eleven-year-old with a stammer, dreams of becoming a stand-up comedian. Starting high school, he goes to extraordinary lengths to hide his speech difficulties from others, from fear of being laughed at and humiliated by his peers. Join Billy on his journey to find his voice, written by comedian Helen Rutter, inspired by her son's experiences.

[The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh - Scholastic](#)

Teaching Resources:

[The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh – Teaching resources - Teachwire](#)
[The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh Teaching Resources - Scholastic Shop](#)