

# **Annotated bibliography of books and movies about people with communication impairment**

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This bibliography was compiled with assistance from colleagues at Charles Sturt University; colleagues participating in the Phonologicaltherapy listserv (September, 2003) [phonologicaltherapy@yahoo.com]; and the Childes Listserv (Sept, 2002) [info-childes@mail.talkbank.org].

Section B containing books for adults about people with communication impairments is based on Kuster, J. (2003) *Clients and their families speak*. (used with permission) (<http://www.mankato.msus.edu/dept/comdis/kuster2/welcome.html>)  
Kuster's bibliography included works compiled by Kent, R. D. (1998). Renewal and rediscovery: Insights from memoirs of illness and disability, *ASHA magazine, Summer*, p. 22.

## **A. Books for children about people with communication impairments**

**Amenta III, C. A. (1992). *Russell is extra special: A book about autism for children*. New York: Magination Press.**

CSU – Bathurst – 616-8982/AME/1

From back cover: “This heart-warming portrayal of an autistic boy and his family will help children and their parents understand this serious developmental disorder. An introduction for parents and a list of resources supply further information. In addition, as they enjoy and identify with the family photographs so similar to their own, children will develop greater sympathy for those who may be different from themselves”

**Anderson, J. (1986). *Spare parts for people*. Melbourne, Vic: Thomas Nelson.**

CSU – Bathurst – EQ617.95/AND/1

Nonfiction. Includes: Bionic ear, Tickle talker, Artificial voice box.

**Arthur, C. (1979). *My sister's silent world*. Chicago: Children's Press. Illustrated by Nathan Talbot.**

CSU - Bathurst - E362.42/ART/1; ACU - Qld - Banyo - CC 823.91 ART

30 pages, colour illustrations. From library catalogue: “A child describes her sister's hearing problem and the family's birthday visit to the zoo”

**Brearley, S. (1989). *Talk to me*. London: A&C Black.**

CSU Bathurst – E618.92/BRE/1

25 pages illustrated with photographs. From back cover: “This book shows how we can talk to each other in different ways: using pictures on a board, lipreading or by using sign language.”

**Bruna, D. (1984). *Blue boat*. London: Methuen Children's.**

CSU - Wagga Wagga - CRC362.42/B1

24 pages with colour illustrations for 3-7 year old children. From library catalogue: “A story which describes what it is like to be deaf, how deaf children learn to speak by learning to lip-read and how their hearing may be enhanced with hearing aids”

**\*\*\*Clemente, G. (1994). *Cosmo gets an ear*. Los Alamitos: Modern Signs Press. Illustrated by Eugene Yelchin.**

CSU – Bathurst – E618.92/1CLE/1

Hilarious 46 page book suitable for primary-aged children about Cosmo who:

- a) “Has long dark brown hair that he keeps blowing out of his eyes like he’s a choo choo train
- b) Is in heaven when he’s eating a mayonnaise sandwich or a plateful of peas with a glass of milk and icecubes.
- c) Has terrible hearing
- d) All of the above”

ANSWER. D

**Dubowski, C. E. & Dubowski, M. (2000). *Wild Thornberrys: Gift of the gab*. New York: Simon Spotlight/Nickelodeon. Illustrated by the Thompson Bros.**

61 page novel for 7-10 year olds. From the back cover: “Find out how Eliza Thornberry got her amazing secret gift to talk with animals – and why it has to be a secret forever! When Eliza breaks a spell in the African jungle, she gets her wish. But she quickly realizes she can’t talk with humans anymore! And the person responsible for granting her wish has disappeared! Will her family ever understand her again? Find out what happens as Eliza learns what having the gift of the gab means in this momentous story!”

**Fox, M. (1984). *Wilfred Gordon McDonald Partridge*. Norwood, SA: Omnibus Books. Illustrated by Julie Vivas. ISBN 1862913471**

30 page illustrated book for preschool children. Classic Australian children’s picture book about Wilfred who helps Miss Nancy find her memory.

**\*\*\*Gleitzman, M. (1992). *Blabber mouth*. Sydney: Pan MacMillan Australia**

**Gleitzman, M. (2000). *Sticky beak*. Sydney: Pan MacMillan Australia.**

**Gleitzman, M. (1999). *Gift of the Gab*. Sydney: Puffin.**

Humorous teenage fiction about a girl who is mute. Extract from *Blabbermouth* p. 2  
““G’day”, the letter said, “my name’s Rowena Batts and, as you’ve probably noticed by now, I can’t speak. Don’t worry, but, we can still be friends cause I can write, draw, point, nod, shake my head, screw up my nose and do sign language. I used to go to a special school but the government closed it down. The reason I can’t speak is I was born with some bits missing from my throat. (It’s OK, I don’t leak.) Apart from that I’m completely normal.””

**Green, J. (1992). *How different is Anthony?* Stockton, CA: Wide Smiles.**

**Green, J. (1994). *Anthony visits his cleft palate team*. Stockton, CA: Wide Smiles.**

Children’s picture books with black and white illustrations. A colouring book version of Green (1994) can be downloaded from [www.widesmiles.org/Kids\\_Lit/anthonytm/](http://www.widesmiles.org/Kids_Lit/anthonytm/)

**Hirsch, K. (1981). *Becky*. Minneapolis, MN: Carolrhoda Books. Illustrated by Jo Esco.**

CSU - Bathurst - E823/HIR/1

40 pages, juvenile fiction. From library catalogue: “A deaf child lives with a hearing family while she attends school and enables them to become conscious of problems facing the deaf”

**Holcomb, N. (1990). *Sarah's surprise*. Exton, PA: Jason & Nordic.**

A five-year-old girl who cannot talk but who uses a picture board then an AAC communicate

**Hutchins, E. (1988). *There's something about Mondays*. Cammeray, NSW: Martin Educational. Illustrated by Trish Hill.**

CSU - Wagga Wagga - CRC808.042/B131

122 page novel aimed at children in grades 5-6. From library catalogue: “A young girl with a hearing impairment makes a temporary move to a new city with her parents and realises she can manage in a new school and make new friends”

**Isadora, R. (1985). *I hear*. London: McRae**

CSU - Bathurst - E823/ISA/1

32 pages. Illustrated book for young children.

**Klein, R. (1984). *You're on your own*. Melbourne: Edward Arnold. Illustrated by John Burge.**

22 page book illustrated with photographs for older primary children. From the back cover: "David Lewis is good at gymnastics, and did well at dancing until the other kids tormented him. He has a bigger problem: his stammer. His sisters don't want him hanging around the skating rink, but he is determined to do what *he* wants to do. He finally achieves two things that really boost his self-confidence!"

**Klein, R. (1985). *Serve him right*. Melbourne: Edward Arnold. Illustrated by John Burge.**

23 page book illustrated with photographs for older primary children. From the back cover: "Rhonda Morgan is tormented because she wears a hearing aid. Her mother has enrolled her for dancing classes, but she decides to swap and take up Judo. The school bully is especially nasty, and makes fun of her efforts. Rhonda finds a way of handling him..."

**Klein, R. (1986). *Boss of the pool*. Gosford, NSW: Omnibus books. ISBN 1862913536**

69 page book for older primary. Shortlisted as book of the year: Young readers (1987) by The Children's Book Council of Australia. Topic: intellectual disability. From the back cover: "Shelly can't believe she's doing this: teaching a great big retarded boy to swim! Ben doesn't even want to get in the pool, he's terrified of water... Robin Klein's novel about trust and overcoming prejudice takes the reader on a warm-hearted journey of discovery, Sometimes the most unlikely friendships are best."

**Kline, Suzie (1992). *Mary Marony and the Snake*. New York: Putnam.**

**Kline, Suzie (1993). *Mary Marony Hides Out*. New York: Putnam.**

**Kline, Suzie (1994). *Mary Marony, Mummy Girl*. New York: Putnam.**

**Kline, Suzie (1995). *Mary Marony and the Chocolate Surprise*. New York: Putnam.**

A series of books for primary aged children about Mary Marony, who is in second grade, and has a stutter.

**Kraus, R. (1994). *Leo the late bloomer*. HarperCollins. ISBN: 006443348X.**

**Illustrated by Jose Aruego**

**Kraus, R. (1998). *Little Louie the baby bloomer*. HarperCollins. ISBN: 0060262931. Illustrated by Jose Aruego**

Illustrated books for children aged 3-7 about a little lion, Leo, and Leo's little brother Louie, who are late bloomers and slow to develop skills, including speech. Leo's family and friends wonder why they are delayed but there is no negative response.

**Lester, H. (1999). *Hooway for Wodney Wat*. New York: Horton Mifflin Illustrated by Lynn Munsinger.**

32 pages. Illustrated book for children aged 4-8 about a rat who cannot say /r/. Wodney is teased, but his speech impediment helps him chase away the class bully, and he becomes a class hero.

Review by a parent: "My son is sometimes uncomfortable with this book if he has been recently teased himself. When he is feeling secure, he enjoys it."

**Litchfield, A. B. (1984). *Making room for Uncle Joe*. Niles, IL: Albert Whitman. Illustrated by Gail Owens.**

30 pages for primary children. Dust jacket summary: “When the state hospital school closes and Uncle Joe comes to Dan’s house, Dan and his family are all apprehensive about having a retarded (sic) relative living with them”

**\*\*\*Marsden, J. (1987) *So much to tell you*. Montville, Qld: Walter McVitty Books**

Voted book of the year: Older readers (1988) by The Children’s Book Council of Australia. Topic: Selective mutism due to trauma. From back cover: “The absorbing diary of a 14 year old girl who shares with us her thoughts about he school and people around her; she reveals, bit by bit, the events of her past which have caused her to withdraw into herself.”

**Mattingley, C. (1995). *The race*. Sydney: Scholastic.**

CSU - Bathurst - E 823 MAT 15; CSU - Albury City- C MAT 8; CSU - Wagga Wagga - CRC829.3/MAT/25

30 page juvenile fiction with colour illustrations. From library catalogue: “A teacher recognises a boy's problem with hearing and helps him win the race and have a sense of belonging”

**Nadeau, K. G. & Dixon, E. B. (1997). *Learning to slow down and pay attention: A book for kids about ADD*. (2<sup>nd</sup> ed). New York: Magination Press. Illustrated by John R. Rose.**

CSU - Bathurst – E618.928589/NAD/1

From back cover: “Written especially for kids, this guidebook about the challenges of ADD is packed with cartoons, activity pages, and checklists. It’s not an instruction manual, but a fun, friendly workbook that offers a wealth of helpful tips for every situation – at home, school and, among friends.”

**Nemiroff, M. A. & Annunziata, J. (1998). *Help is on its way: A child’s book about ADD*. New York: Magination Press. Illustrated by Margaret Scott.**

CSU - Bathurst – E618.928589/NEM/1

From back cover: “...warm reassuring book for youngsters with attention deficit disorders (ADD). In simple upbeat language and cheerful gentle illustrations, the book describes how children might experience the symptoms of ADD. It tells how they can cope with it and what kind of help is available.”

**Pattison, A. (1988). *Clare has an ear infection*. Melbourne, Vic: Hyland House. Illustrated by Virginia Barrett.**

CSU – Bathurst – E617.8/PAT/1

Illustrated book for preschool children. Endorsed by the Australian Medical Association.

**Peckinpah, S. L. (1991). *Rosey: The imperfect angel*. Woodland Hills, CA: Scholars Press. Illustrated by Trisha Moore.**

Rosey is an angel who has a cleft palate. There is a series of books written about imperfect angels.

**Pettenuzzo, B. meets Munir, A. (1987). *I am deaf*. London: Franklin Watts.**

CSU – Bathurst - E618.920978/PET/1

Focuses on a school-aged girl who tells her own story in her own words. Illustrated by photographs.

**Riski, M. C. (1994). *Patrick gets hearing aids*. Phonak. Illustrated by Kim Klakow**

CSU - Bathurst - E617.89 RIS 1

Large colour illustrations targeted at preschool and early school aged children. Patrick is a rabbit who cannot hear well, so he goes to an audiologist for a hearing test, has aids fitted, then can hear his friends and family much better.

**Rounds, G. (1980). *Blind outlaw*. Gosford, NSW: Ashton Scholastic.**

CSU - Wagga Wagga - CRC428.6/A33/8

80 page juvenile fiction targeted at 10-11 year old readers. From library catalogue: “A blind wild horse which has been accidentally herded onto a ranch is tamed by a boy who, because of a speech impediment cannot talk, but can make sounds and appears to have a way with animals The patient steps the boy takes to tame the horse are detailed in the story”

**Scott, V. M. (1986). *Belonging*. Washington, DC: Gallaudet College Press.**

CSU - Bathurst - E823/SCO/6

200 page juvenile fiction with illustrations. From library catalogue: “After contracting meningitis, a fifteen-year-old girl becomes deaf and must struggle with accepting her hearing loss and being accepted by her friends and family”

**Snell, N. (1979). *Peter gets a hearing aid*. London: Hamish Hamilton.**

CSU - Bathurst - E617.89/SNE/1

Colourfully illustrated book for preschool children.

**Taylor, B. (1989). *Living with deafness*. London: Franklin Watts.**

CSU – Bathurst – EQ617.8/TAY/1

Nonfiction. Chapters: How the ear works, Kinds of hearing problems, Treatment for ear problems, Living with deafness, Caring for your ears, Glossary.

**Ure, J. (1990). *Cool Simon*. London: Orchard.**

CSU - Bathurst - E823/URE/7; CSU - Wagga Wagga - CRC823/URE/2

154 page juvenile fiction for 8-11 year children. From library catalogue: “A young boy with partial hearing joins a new school and finds it difficult to make friends when the other children do not take the time to understand him, except a disruptive student, Samantha”

**Wignell, E. (1993). *I wonder who lives upstairs*. Nedlands, WA: Cygnet Books. Illustrated by Leanne Argent**

CSU - Bathurst - E 823/WIG/3; CSU - Albury City - C/WIG/1

30 page juvenile fiction about a hearing impaired person and hearing dogs.

**Wild, M & Huxley, D. (1990). *Remember me*. Hunters Hill, NSW: Margaret Hamilton Books. ISBN 0947241329**

30 page illustrated book for preschool children. Ellie helps her Grandmother to remember.

**Wilson, P. M. & Irvine, S. (1983). *If you knew Nicky*. London: Angus & Robertson. Photographs by Sandra Irvine.**

30 page book for young readers about a girl Anna, whose brother Nicky has autism. From the back cover: “Anna is a little girl who loves doing what comes naturally to youngsters her age – playing with friends, enjoying her toys and just being happy. But her life is different from those of her friends: she has a brother who is autistic. Nicky can’t help what he does, but he makes life difficult for Anna and her parents. Living with a “special” person like Nicky means taking him to a school far across town, making many trips to a specialist, and adapting to a home life punctuated with sleepless nights and tantrums. Through it all, even though they sometimes show normal anger, Anna and her parents treat Nicky with patience and tenderness. *If you knew Nicky* shows that love can overcome most difficult situations, even having a “special” brother.”

**Winch, J. (1993). *The old man who loved to sing*. Gosford, NSW: Scholastic.**

30 page illustrated book for preschool children about a man who forgets how to sing.

**Wright, B. R. (1981). *My sister is different*. Milwaukee, WI: Raintree Children’s Books. Illustrated by Helen Cogancherry**

30 page juvenile fiction about a boy whose older sister has an intellectual impairment.

## ***B. Books for adults about people with communication impairments***

### **Children with a Language Impairment**

**Dorris, Michael. (1996). *Broken cord*. New York: Harper Perennial.**

A father's story of his adopted son, who has fetal alcohol syndrome. The book is a powerful journal telling how a child's life was affected by his mother's consumption of alcohol. It doesn't offer much in the way of personal redemption or victory, but it honestly shows the legacy of alcohol, a neurotoxin. This book received the 1989 National Book Critics Award and the 1989 Christopher Award.

**Grandin, Temple, & Scariano, Margaret M. (1986). *Emergence: Labeled autistic*. Novato, CA: Arena Press.**

The first author was diagnosed with autism. She tells the story of her emergence and her adjustments to the nonautistic world.

**Grandin, Temple. (1996). *Thinking in pictures: And other reports of my life with autism*. New York: Vintage Press.**

The author complements her earlier book (with M. M. Scariano) with further descriptions of her encounters with the world. The book offers rare insights into the cognitive experiences of a person with autism.

**Haddon, M. *The curious incident of the dog in the night time*. ISBN 0 385 60587 0**

A murder mystery about a 15 year old boy called Christopher who has Asperger's syndrome.

**Kaufman, Barry. (1976). *Son-rise*. New York: Harper & Row.**

A father's journal of an autistic boy, Raun, and his family's attempts to break through his isolation.

**Kephart, Beth. (1998) *A slant of sun: One child's courage*, W.W. Norton and Company.**

The story of a young boy with autism and his family's journey.

**Park, Clara Claiborne. (1982). *The siege: The first eight years of an autistic child* (Rev. ed). Boston: Little, Brown.**

A mother's account of the first 8 years of her autistic daughter's life. This is one of the first personal narratives on autism.

**Rogers, C. & Dolva, G. (1998). *Karina has Down Syndrome: One family's account of the early years with a child who has special needs*. Lismore, NSW: Southern Cross University Press.**

114 pages. From the back cover: "We mourn the death of the child we had assumed I had given birth to, yet dearly love the baby we have. We want our child, but we don't want her to have Down Syndrome...This is their account of her first six years..."

**Rymer, Russ. (1993). *Genie: An abused child's flight from silence*. New York: Harper Collins.**



As a child, Genie was strapped to a potty chair in an isolated back room of her parents' house. Upon her discovery by the outside world, she was both taught and studied by a number of scientists. This book relates the conflicts and jealousies that ultimately added more tragedy to Genie's life.

**Williams, Donna. (1992). *Nobody nowhere*. New York: Avon Books.**

This book chronicles the life of a woman from her childhood as a girl who was severely withdrawn and autistic to an adult who received a college education and wrote about the complexities of autism. In his foreword, Bernard Rimland, an authority on autism, notes that the book "sheds light on one of the great mysteries of autism: the process of recovery.

### **People with a Speech Impairment**

**Sedaris, D. (2000). *Me talk pretty one day*. Little Brown & Company ISBN: 0316777722**

"David Sedaris' autobiographical memoir of being plucked from his classroom, like other boys in the FUTURE HOMOSEXUALS OF AMERICA (his words and caps!) category, to have his lisp expunged by a state certified speech therapist. "None of the therapy students were girls. They were all boys like me who kept movie star scrapbooks and made their own curtains." Described by *New York Magazine* as playwright, author, radio star, and retired elf, Sedaris writes about the fifth-grade experience of homosexual boys forced to conceal their sexuality at school. "We knocked ourselves out trying to fit in but were ultimately betrayed by our tongues. At the beginning of the school year, while we were congratulating ourselves on successfully passing for normal, Agent Samson [the speech therapist] was taking names as our assembled teachers raised their hands, saying, "I've got one in my homeroom," and "There are two in my fourth-period math class." Were they also able to spot the future drunks and depressives? Did they hope that by eliminating our lisps, they might set us on a different path, or were they trying to prepare us for future stage and choral careers?" Sedaris' experience of speech therapy for a lisp is from the perspective of a ten or eleven year old boy already aware of his preference for same sex partners." [http://www.twbookmark.com/books/49/0316777722/chapter\\_excerpt10135.html](http://www.twbookmark.com/books/49/0316777722/chapter_excerpt10135.html)

### **People with a Hearing Impairment**

**Cohen, Leah H. (1994). *Train go sorry: Inside a deaf world*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.**

The author relates the personal experience of deafness, focusing especially on the Lexington School for the Deaf during its attempt to assimilate signing into a historically oral educational tradition. The book touches on the lives of several individuals who are deaf.

**Goldsworth, P. (1995). *Wish: A biologically engineered love story*. Sydney: HarperCollins.**

A controversial novel (299 pages) about a hearing man born to deaf parents and his relationship with a gorilla who signs. The story is told through drawings of Auslan (Australian sign language) signs as well as text. Contains adult themes.

**Healy, L. (2002). *Up! A mother's journey to freedom with her deaf son*. Sydney: Book House.**

150 page book written about a boy with a hearing impairment growing up in Orange, NSW. It covers from when he was born in 1961, through his schooling, to his graduation at university, and becoming a father.

**Lane, Harlan. (1992). *The mask of benevolence: Disabling the deaf community*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.**

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McLeod, S. (Ed.) (2003). *Annotated bibliography of books and movies about people with communication impairment*. Bathurst, NSW: Charles Sturt University

Lane offers a historical review of attitudes toward deaf people in Europe and America. He also argues strongly against the use of cochlear implants in children.

**Lock, E. S. (1963). *Careful, he might hear you*. London: Victor Gollancz.**

CSU - Bathurst - 829.33/ELL/2

339 pages. Classic book, also a movie.

**Merker, Hannah. (1994). *Listening*. New York: Harper Collins.**

The author experienced a sudden severe hearing loss at the age of 39 because of a skiing accident. She discusses the various difficulties of her hearing loss, perhaps the most significant of which is the stigma attached to it. Interestingly, she assails some medical practitioners as "listening impaired" because of their assumption that she cannot understand what they are saying. Consequently, they ignore her communicative ability. In fact, Merker is quite adept at speechreading. She reflects at length on the difference between hearing and listening.

**Sacks, Oliver. (1991). *Seeing voices: A journey into the world of the deaf*. London: Pan Books.**

Sacks, a neurologist and prolific author, turns his writing talents to discovering deaf society. He reviews the education of the deaf in America, considers American Sign Language, and reviews the "revolution" at Gallaudet College. He argues passionately for ASL as the preferred language for the deaf.

**Sidransky, Ruth. (1990). *In silence: Growing up hearing in a deaf world*. New York: St Martin's.**

The author, a hearing child of deaf parents, states, "I stepped between the deaf and the hearing worlds never quite fitting into either, never knowing who I was" (p. 95).

**Solomon, R. (1990). *Careful, he might not hear you*. Sydney, NSW: Little Red Apple Publishing.**

CSU - Bathurst - 362.42/SOL/1; CSU - Albury City - 362.42 S1; CSU - Wagga Wagga - 362.42/S1

195 page biography about a child with hearing impairment.

**Spradley, Thomas, & Spradley, James. (1978). *Deaf like me* Washington, D.C.: Gallaudet University Press.**

The focus of this book is Thomas Spradley's daughter, Lynn Spradley, who was born deaf. With the strong encouragement, if not insistence, of educators, administrators, and physicians, the family endeavored to bring Lynn into the world of oral communication. The book tells of their eventual disenchantment with oralism and their recognition of sign as the means to Lynn's communicative life.

**Walker, Lou Ann. (1986). *A loss for words: The story of deafness in a family*. New York: Harper and Row.**

Walker describes her experiences as the hearing child of deaf parents. While growing up, she often served as their ears and mouth, thereby living on the sometimes uneasy border between child and adult roles.

## **People who Stutter**

**Jezer, M. (1997). *Stuttering: A life bound up in words*. New York: Basic Books.**

Despite his participation in several forms of treatment, Jezer did not achieve fluency.

His memoir tells of his experiences with dysfluency but also of his successes and satisfactions in professional and personal life.

**Love, Robert E (2000) *The Bob Love story: If it's gonna be, it's up to me*, Chicago, Illinois: Contemporary Books.**

The story of a professional basketball player who stutters.

**Murray, Frederick P. (1980). *A stutterer's story*. Memphis, TN: Stuttering Foundation of America.**

The experiences of a severe stutterer are retold, together with an account of what is known about this disorder and what is now being achieved by adults and children who stutter.

**Shields, David, (1989) *Dead languages: An autobiographical novel about a young man who stutters*. New York: Harper and Row**

**St. Louis, K.O. (2001) *Living with stuttering: Stories, basics, resources, and hope*, Morgantown, WV: Populare.**

A collection of 25 person stories by people who stutter along with "Some Basics" about stuttering.

**Steele, Lise G. Cloutier, (1991) *Living & learning with a child who stutter: From a parent's point of view*, NC Press Limited.**

A Collection of Short Stories written by the mother of a dysfluent teen who has stuttered since the age of 3, with a chapter on recent scientific research into stuttering by David Forster.

**Swanson, R. C. (2002). *The stuckerer*. Cottonwood Tree Publishing.**

ISBN: 0-615-11988-3

307 page autobiography of a person growing up with a stutter. Swansing@aol.com

**Portion of a review of *The Stuckerer* by Dr Caroline Bowen, Australian speech pathologist**

Teased and traumatised by family and peers as a youngster, it was not until Robert Clarence (Bob) Swanson was ten years old that speech therapy treatment, at school, was provided. The therapy was old-fashioned by today's criteria: a blend of gentle and genuine emotional support, out loud reading, self-esteem building and opportunities to ventilate. Old fashioned it may have been, but within two years, the therapy, or something, had worked. The boy was fluent. In the fall of 1933 Bob Swanson turned fifteen. His father whom he loved unconditionally, but whom he feared for his violent outbursts and savage tongue, had died in July of that year, and the boy's stutter, mercifully absent since the age of 12, returned. *The Stuckerer* is a first person account of a life shaped and often dominated by stuttering...His vivid descriptions of actively hostile, punitive reactions to him because of his stutter are uncomfortable and memorable. It must be said that *The Stuckerer* is a compelling story ... But the book is too long...Swanson is at his best when he writes specifically about his stutter. His intelligence, creativity, courage, sensitivity and humility shine through, and his frustration with all that stuttering means to an individual, is palpable. I would love to see this book succeed, but have faint hopes for it in its present form.

## **People with a Voice Disorder**

**Gargan, William, (1969) *Why me? An autobiography*, Garden City, NY: Doubleday.**

The story of a movie star who had a laryngectomy.

Sowerby, Dot, as told to Betty Schonauer, (1999) *Speechless: Living with spasmodic dysphonia*, Childgo, IL: National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association (www.dysphonia.org).

### **People who have Aphasia Following a Stroke**

**Bauby, Jean-Dominique. (1997). *The diving bell and the butterfly: A Memoir of Life in Death*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.**

“At the age of 44, after a catastrophic stroke and several weeks in a coma, Jean-Dominique Bauby, editor of Elle magazine, became a victim of what is known as “locked-in syndrome.” Unable to move or speak, though he continued to feel pain, Bauby found eventually that he could move only his left eyelid. Using a specially constructed alphabet based on letter-frequency, he dictated this extraordinary memoir of his ordeal by blinking his good eye. Bauby died in March 1997.” two days after the French publication of his book. From: [http://books.webwab.com/item\\_540288.htm](http://books.webwab.com/item_540288.htm)

Review: <http://www.thei.aust.com/bsite/btl/btlbauby.html>

EXCERPT: <http://www.bookbrowse.com/index.cfm/title/titleID/120/view/excerpt.htm>

**Berger, Paul E. & Staphanie Mensh, (1999) *How to conquer the world with one hand . . . and an attitude* Positive Power Publishing**

(can be ordered online at <http://www.positivepowerpublishing.com/>)

**Douglas, Kirk (2002) *My stroke of luck*, Little, Brown.**

"Kirk Douglas shares with readers his experiences and inspirations in a punishing battle to return to life after a stroke. His affliction attracted attention worldwide during the Academy Awards when he accepted a Lifetime Achievement Award to a standing ovation from a tearful Hollywood crowd. It was his first public appearance since the debilitating attack. Douglas discusses his anguish at his plight and at the same time, he offers advice, exercises and lessons he learned while in recovery that lifted him from deep depression back to a joyful, loving husband, father and grandfather."

**Ewing, Susan Adair, & Pfalzgraf, Beth. (1990). *Pathways*. Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press.**

The authors, two speech-language pathologists, retell incidents in the lives of six families who must cope with stroke and aphasia.

**Gordon, J. (1994). *Speechless: My recovery from stroke*. Nedlands, WA: University of Western Australia Press.**

165 pages. From the back cover: “At the age of forty-three, Jennifer Gordon suffered a debilitating stroke that robbed her of the power of speech. What was it like for an intelligent, articulate, imaginative woman to find herself in a world where she could no longer communicate? *Speechless* tells this story.”

**Hodgins, Eric (1964). *Episode: Report on the accident inside my skull*. New York: Atheneum.**

Following a stroke, the author experienced aphasia and other sequelae. This book describes his depression and frustration with various treatments.

**Johnson, Fred K. (1990) *Right hemisphere stroke*. Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press.**

This is apparently the first published account of an individual who experienced a right-hemisphere stroke. The author discusses personality changes and disorientation. He also considers the possibility that some language functions are based in the right hemisphere.

**Knox, David R. (1985). *Portrait of aphasia*. Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press.** Knox writes about his wife's aphasia, especially treatment and recovery. He offers a detailed account of the emotional and physical challenges that aphasia can present.

**McBride, Carmen. (1969). *Silent victory*. Chicago: Nelson-Hall.**  
A personal narrative of a person with aphasia, written by his wife.

**Moss, C. Scott. (1972). *Recovery from aphasia: The aftermath of my stroke*. Urbana, IL: University of Illinois Press.**  
A personal account of aphasia and the recovery process.

**Neal, Patricia, *As I am: An autobiography*, (1988), NY, New York: Simon and Schuster.**  
The story of a movie star who survived a serious stroke.

**Parr, Susie, Byng, Sally, & Gilpin, Sue. (1997) *Talking about aphasia*. Buckingham: Open University Press.**  
An account of the experiences of 50 people with varying levels and severity of aphasia.

**Perez, Paulina (2001) *Brain attack: Danger, chaos, opportunity and empowerment*, Johnson, VT: Cutting Edge Press.**  
Written specifically about "feelings."

**Wulf, Helen Harlan. (1973) *Aphasia, my world alone*. Detroit, MI: Wayne State University Press.**  
Wulf describes her recovery from aphasia, giving a vivid account of her frustrations and victories. Speech-language treatment figures prominently in her recovery, and the speech clinician is gratefully acknowledged.

### **People who have had a Traumatic Brain Injury**

**Bryant, Beverley, (1992) *In search of wings: A journey back from traumatic brain injury*, Wings Press.**

(review from Brain Injury Association of Maine "Wings is an intimate, poignant and inspiring look at one woman's courage and determination to face and conquer the challenges of disability. . . . Nothing I have read in my time has moved me as much as this book."

**Crimmins, C.E. (2000) *Where is the mango princess?***

Amazon description, "This is a book that Cathy Crimmins never hoped to write: the story of how a tragic accident nearly destroyed her family; of how in a split second their lives were changed forever. In 1996, Cathy Crimmins, her husband, Alan, and their daughter, Kelly, were on an idyllic lakeside holiday when a boating accident left Alan in a deep coma, with severe damage to the frontal lobes of his brain, the area

that controls speech, memory, movement, and personality. Where Is the Mango Princess? is the story of what happened to Cathy and her family after Alan woke up."

**Luria, A. R. (1972). *The man with a shattered world*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.**

The eminent Russian psychologist A. R. Luria recounts the efforts of a brain-injured soldier to overcome impairments of memory, vision, speaking, reading, and writing. The soldier, named Zasetzky, considered as his most serious disability a loss of "speech memory"--words for him had lost their meaning altogether or had only fragmented meanings.

**Osborn, Claudia L, (1998) *Over my head: A doctor's own story of head injury from the inside looking out*, Andrews McMeel Publishing.**

Amazon review, "an inspiring story of how one woman comes to terms with the loss of her identity and the courageous steps (and hilarious missteps) she takes while learning to rebuild her life. The author, a doctor and clinical professor of medicine, describes the aftermath of a brain injury 11 years ago which stripped her of her beloved profession. For years she was deprived of her intellectual companionship and the ability to handle the simplest undertakings like shopping for groceries or sorting the mail.

**Quinn, Deborah, (1998) *Conquering the darkness: One woman's story of recovering from a brain injury*, Paragon House**

**Swanson, Kara L, (1999) *I'll carry the fork!/: Recovering a life after brain injury*, Rising Star Press.**

Review by Marian Bayoff Ilitch. "Kara Swanson's remarkable story provides a very meaningful glimpse into the life of someone who has been changed by a head injury. By sharing her personal triumphs and challenges she gives us a new sensitivity for the countless people and families who focus each and every day on their recoveries. Both Kara and her book are special.

## **People who have Cerebral Palsy**

**Cribbin, Tom (2000). *Proud owner of a speech impediment*, Canada: DataPlan (Sarnia) Ltd.**

A very short book which might be appropriate for another person with this disability.

**Hasse, James R. (1996) *Break out: Finding freedom when you don't quite fit the mold*, Berea, Ohio: Quixote Publications.**

A former client of Dr Judith Kuster tells his story.

**McKee, John D. (1955). *Two legs to stand on*. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts.**

A narrative of a man with cerebral palsy.

**Sienkiewicz-Mercer, Ruth, & Kaplan, Steven B. (1989). *I raise my eyes to say yes*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.**

Because of severe cerebral palsy, the first author was unable to walk, talk, or feed herself. She was for a time institutionalized with people who were mentally retarded, until her abilities were recognized. The book was a product of collaboration between

the first author, who composed brief statements with a communication board, and the second author, a lawyer and advocate for people with disabilities.

### **People who have Degenerative Diseases**

**Boden, C. (1998).** *Who will I be when I die?* East Melbourne, Vic: Harper Collins. 178 page autobiography of an Australian woman with Alzheimer's disease.

**Brough, B. S. (1998).** *Alzheimer's with love.* Lismore, NSW: Southern Cross University Press.

80 pages. From the back cover: "...Brough shares a very personal experience, where she learns to see beyond the wastage and confusion of her long-time friend, to travel with him through his unconventional, imaginal world..."

**Davies, R. (1989).** *My journey into Alzheimer's disease.* Wheaton, Il: Tyndale Press.

160 page autobiography of an American pastor with Alzheimer's disease.

**Doernberg, Myrna. (1989).** *Stolen mind.* Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill.

A wife writes of her husband's gradual intellectual deterioration due to Binswanger disease, which produces symptoms nearly identical to those in Alzheimer's disease. She describes how her husband's progressive dementia affected their lives and the ways in which she coped with his memory loss,

**Fox, M. J. (2002).** *Lucky man: A memoir.* Sydney: Bantam Books.

323 pages. Michael J. Fox's life story, including his insights into having Parkinson's Disease.

**Hampson, A. with Jurd, E. (2000).** *Take me home: Families living with Alzheimer's.* Dora Creek NSW: Rezolv in Print. ISBN 0957805802

308 pages containing biographies of partners, children and grandchildren of people with Alzheimer's disease.

**Malcolm, A.H. (1987).** *This far and no more* New York: Times Books.

This book is about a woman who has ALS and the things she and her family go through.

**Rabin, Roni. (1985).** *Six parts love: One family's battle with Lou Gehrig's disease.* New York: Scribner.

This biography of the author's father follows him and his family as they face the trials of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a degenerative neurological disease. He was diagnosed with ALS in June of 1979 and died in October 1984, conforming to the usual prognosis of death following diagnosis within 3 to 5 years.

**Roach, Marion. (1985).** *Another name for madness.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

A daughter's story of her mother's gradual memory loss and dementia associated with Alzheimer's disease.

## **Fiction**

**Dart-Thornton, C. (2001). *The ill-made mute*. New York: Warner Books (Sydney: Pan Macmillan). ISBN 0732910978**

A 432 page fantasy novel in the tradition of Tolkein. From the back cover: “The Stormriders land their splendid winged stallions on the airy battlements of Isse Tower. Far below, the superstitious servants who dwell in the fortress’s depths tell ghastly tales of evil creatures... Yet it is the least of the lowly – a mute, scarred, and utterly despised foundling – who dares to scale the Tower...The fugitive is rescued by a kindhearted adventurer who gives it a name, the gift of communicating by handspeak, and an amazing truth it had never guessed...”

**Gearino, G. D. (1996). *What the deaf mute heard*. New York: Simon & Schuster.**

A 221 page novel. From the book: “I don’t talk because I choose not to. As far as everyone in Barrington is concerned, I am a deaf-mute. That’s not so. In reality, I’ve heard everything that is worth hearing in this town.”

## **C. Books for adults mentioning people with communication impairments**

**Kingsolver, B. (1988). *The bean trees*. New York: Harper & Row. (232 pages)**

**Kingsolver, B. (1993). *Pigs in heaven*. New York: HarperCollins. (343 pages)**

The main characters’ adopted daughter does not speak.

**Martin, R. (2000). *Beethoven’s hair: An extraordinary historical odyssey and a musical mystery solved*. London: Bloomsbury.**

Acquired hearing impairment in adulthood (276 pages)

**Seth, V. (1999). *An equal music*. London: Phoenix House.**

Acquired hearing impairment in adulthood (381 pages)

## **D. Movies that promote awareness of communication, language and/or communication impairment**

- ◆ A Fish Called Wanda (stuttering)
- ◆ And Now For Something Completely Different – Monty Python (particularly the argument sketch)
- ◆ Anywhere but Here ... Susan Sarandon as a speech language pathologist who moved with her teenage daughter from East Coast US to Hollywood
- ◆ Best Boy
- ◆ Children of A Lesser God (hearing impaired students challenging assumptions of a hearing society)
- ◆ Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter
- ◆ Dances with Wolves (reacquisition a forgotten mother tongue)
- ◆ I am Sam (man with an intellectual disability who has a daughter)
- ◆ Iris (a professor who acquires Alzheimer’s disease)
- ◆ LP/MC Monty Python Live At the Drury Lane Theatre and Monty Python Live At The Hollywood Bowl. The Travel Agency sketch (the /k/ sketch).
- ◆ Miracle Worker



- ◆ My Cousin Vinny (had a lawyer who stuttered)
- ◆ My Dinner with Andre
- ◆ My Fair Lady
- ◆ My Left Foot
- ◆ Nell (Jodie Foster stars as a woman raised in isolation by a woman with aphasia. Fascinating speech and self-taught language.)
- ◆ Rainman
- ◆ Star Wars (watch Yoda)
- ◆ The Enigma of Kaspar Hauser (explores language deprivation, social and emotional factors, and issues of language and cognition)
- ◆ The Heart is a Lonely Hunter (from the late '60s/early 70s stars Alan Arkin as a deaf man in an oral world).
- ◆ The Parent Trap (learn the California/British colloquialisms)
- ◆ The Wind Talkers
- ◆ Wild Child (Francois Truffau)

### **Websites about the portrayal of disability in movies**

- ◆ **Films involving disabilities:** <http://www.disabilityfilms.co.uk/categories.htm>  
 “This site presents a detailed list of 2,500 feature films which involve in one way or another various disabilities. It is directed towards teachers, students and anyone who has an interest in how disability is represented in films.”

- ◆ **Stuttering: Judith Kuster**

<http://www.mankato.msus.edu/dept/comdis/kuster/media/media.html>

Dr Judith Kuster a speech-language pathologist at Minnesota State University, Mankato, maintains a list of stuttering portrayals: in literature, children’s literature, movies, television, stage, cartoons. From a message posted to the phonological therapy listserv (Sept 2003): “Short summary, there are very few positive portrayals of people who stutter (the movie "Paulie"), many neutral portrayals ("I, Claudius" mini-series), and mostly negative portrayals of stuttering ("A Fish Called Wanda")”

- ◆ **Ouch!:** <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/>

Ouch! is run by BBC's Interactive Factual and Learning department. “Ouch! is the BBC's new website that reflects life as a disabled person. It's not here as a resource or a help shop; it's more about life, living, creativity, community, humour and the wider view... Our main aim is to reflect experiences, thoughts and give alternative slants on all things big and small that are important to disabled people. We recognise that disabled people have been upset at the way they've been portrayed over the years, so we're hoping to obliterate the preciousness and downright weirdness of some portrayals and tap into reality, moving the debate forward a few, um, inches.”

### **E. Annotated bibliographies of books about people with disabilities**

**Friedberg, J. B., Mullins, J. B., Sukiennik, A. W. (1992). *Portraying persons with disabilities: An annotated bibliography of nonfiction for children and teenagers (2<sup>nd</sup> ed)*. New Providence, NJ: R.R. Bowker.**

CSU - Wagga Wagga - 362.3/F1

385 pages. No section on speech and language impairment

**Friedberg, J. B., Mullins, J. B., Sukiennik, A. W. (1985).** *Accept me as I am: Best books of juvenile nonfiction on impairments and disabilities.* New York: R.R. Bowker.

CSU - Wagga Wagga - 028.5/F8

363 pages. Short section on speech and language impairment

**Quicke, J. (1985).** *Disability in modern children's literature.* Brookline Books.

**Robertson, D. E. J. (1992).** *Portraying persons with disabilities: An annotated bibliography of fiction for children and teenagers (3<sup>rd</sup> ed).* New Providence, NJ: R.R. Bowker.

CSU - Bathurst - R028.162/ROB/1

482 pages. Short section on speech and language impairment

**Ward, M. (2002).** *Voices from the margins.* Westport, CN: Greenwood Press.

### **Websites containing bibliographies on the portrayal of disability in books**

- ◆ Judith Kuster – Particularly her site on children's literature on stuttering

<http://www.mankato.msus.edu/dept/comdis/kuster/Bookstore/childrensbooks.html>

<http://www.mankato.msus.edu/dept/comdis/kuster/Bookstore/literature.html>

<http://www.mankato.msus.edu/dept/comdis/kuster/kids/kidsbooks.html>

- ◆ Kidsource Online: A Guide to Children's Literature and Disability 1989-1994

<http://www.kidsource.com/NICHCY/literature.html>

- ◆ National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities: Children's Literature & Disability (2001)

<http://www.nichcy.org/pubs/bibliog/bib5txt.htm>

- ◆ University of Maryland Baltimore County: Early Childhood Education Program - Children's Literature List disability stereotypes

<http://www.umbc.edu/education/programs/earlychildhood/disability.html>

- ◆ University of Kansas: Circle of Inclusion (including *Nine Ways to Evaluate Children's Books that Address Disability as Part of Diversity*)

<http://www.circleofinclusion.org/english/books/section1/a.html>

<http://www.circleofinclusion.org/english/books/index.html>

<http://www.circleofinclusion.org/english/books/section2/a.html>