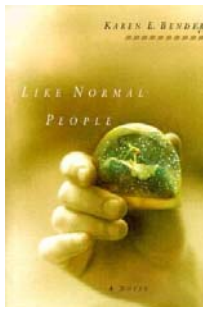


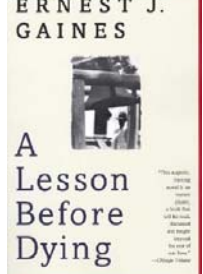

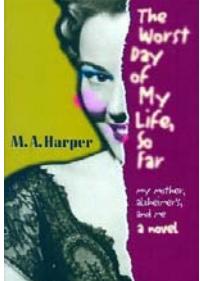
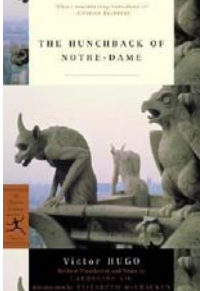

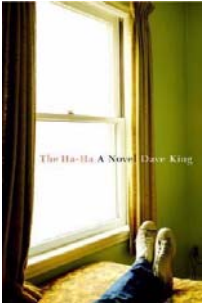
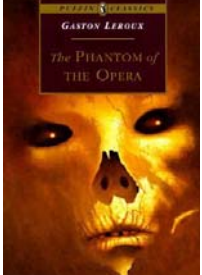

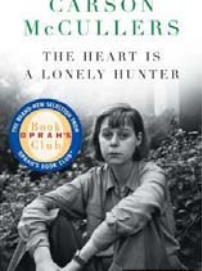


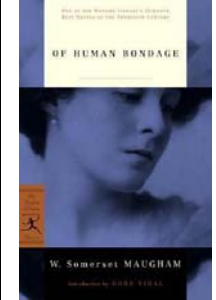
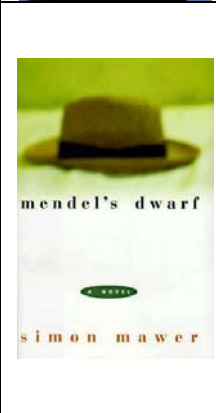


People With Disabilities


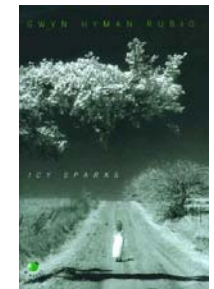
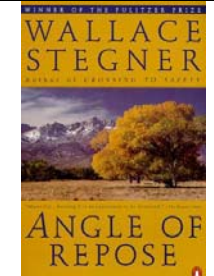
A varied selection of fiction featuring disabled individuals.

	<p>Like Normal People By Karen E. Bender</p> <p>This novel charts a family constellation that revolves around an off-kilter center: Lena, who is forty-eight but mentally locked in childhood. Moving deftly between present and past, the novel follows Lena's day-long escape from her residential home with her troubled twelve-year-old niece. While this odd couple takes refuge on a honky-tonk southern California beach, Lena's widowed mother, Ella, goes in search of them. In the process, Ella relives her own life's dreams and disappointments: her marriage to a sweet, loving shoe salesman; her discovery of Lena's handicap and her aching attempts to give her daughter a "normal" childhood.</p>
	<p>Havana Heat: A Novel By Darryl Brock</p> <p>Havana Heat takes readers back to 1911 America, where thirty-six-year-old Luther Taylor, legendary deaf pitcher, is trying to work his arm back into fighting shape. A real-life star pitcher for John McGraw's New York Giants, Taylor helped lead his team to the pennant, winning 115 games between 1900 and 1908. But an injury relegated him to the minors, and he dreams of one last shot at the big time. He gets his chance when McGraw invites him to join the Giants on a barnstorming trip to Cuba. There, Taylor faces off against the tough Havana teams . . . and meets a deaf Cuban boy with a spectacular pitching arm.</p>
	<p>When I Fall in Love By Iris Rainer Dart</p> <p>Lily Benjamin may have a great job as a comedy writer and a sweet cardiologist fiancé, but when her 15-year old son Bryan's spinal cord is severed by a gun shot, she can find no solace in humor or medicine. Bryan thinks life as a paraplegic will be dismal, and Lily can't muster any optimism either. When her new boss Charlie Roth shows little patience for her, Lily is dumbstruck. Charlie's attitude strikes her as particularly cruel and insensitive, considering his own disfigurement from cerebral palsy. Even worse, however, is Charlie's new interest in Bryan. But as Bryan reacts to Charlie's offbeat humor, Lily slowly realizes that Charlie connects with Bryan in a way no one else can. Through Charlie's guidance, humor, and love, both Lily and Bryan gain a new perspective on life.</p>
	<p>A Lesson Before Dying By Ernest J. Gaines</p> <p>Set in a small Cajun community in the late 1940s, A Lesson Before Dying is a moving novel of one man condemned to die for a crime he did not commit and a young man who visits him in his cell. In the end, the two men forge a bond as they both come to understand the simple heroism of resisting--and defying--the expected.</p>

	<p><u>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</u> By Mark Haddon</p> <p>Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has no understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. Although gifted with a superbly logical brain, Christopher is autistic. Everyday interactions and admonishments have little meaning for him. Routine, order and predictability shelter him from the messy, wider world. Then, at fifteen, Christopher's carefully constructed world falls apart when he finds his neighbor's dog, Wellington, impaled on a garden fork, and he is initially blamed for the killing. Christopher decides that he will track down the real killer and turns to his favorite fictional character, the impeccably logical Sherlock Holmes, for inspiration.</p>
	<p><u>The Worst Day of My Life, So Far: My Mother, Alzheimer's, and Me</u> By M.A. Harper</p> <p>In this smart, funny, and wonderfully Southern novel, Jeanne Roth is forced to come to terms with a past filled with the shadows of her mother, a once-vibrant femme fatale now suffering from Alzheimer's.</p>
	<p><u>The Hunchback of Notre-Dame</u> By Victor Hugo</p> <p>One of the first great novels of the Romantic era, Victor Hugo's The Hunchback of Notre Dame has thrilled generations of readers with its powerfully melodramatic story of Quasimodo, the deformed hunchback who lives in the bell tower of medieval Paris's most famous cathedral. Feared and hated by all, Quasimodo is looked after by Dom Claude Frolo, a stern, cold priest who ignores the poor hunchback in the face of his frequent public torture. But someone steps forward to help-the beautiful gypsy Esmeralda, whose single act of kindness fills Quasimodo with love.</p>
	<p><u>Deafening</u> By Frances Itani</p> <p>As a result of a childhood illness, Grania O'Neill lives in a world without sound, a world bounded by a powerful family love that tries to insulate her from undue suffering. When it becomes clear that Grania can no longer thrive in the world of the hearing, her family sends her to live at the Ontario School for the Deaf where, protected from the often unforgiving hearing world outside, she learns sign language and speech. Then she meets Jim Lloyd, a hearing man, and the two, in wonderment, begin to create a new emotional vocabulary that encompasses both sound and silence. But as history would have it, Jim must leave home only two weeks after their wedding to serve on the blood-soaked battlefields of Flanders. During this long and brutal war of attrition, Jim and Grania are pulled to the center of cataclysmic events that will alter civilization forever.</p>

	<p>Flowers for Algernon By Daniel Keyes</p> <p>With more than five million copies sold, <i>Flowers for Algernon</i> is the beloved, classic story of a mentally disabled man whose experimental quest for intelligence mirrors that of Algernon, an extraordinary lab mouse. In poignant diary entries, Charlie tells how a brain operation increases his IQ and changes his life. As the experimental procedure takes effect, Charlie's intelligence expands until it surpasses that of the doctors who engineered his metamorphosis. The experiment seems to be a scientific breakthrough of paramount importance--until Algernon begins his sudden, unexpected deterioration. Will the same happen to Charlie? An American classic that inspired the award-winning movie <i>Charly</i>.</p>
	<p>Ha-Ha: A Novel By Dave King</p> <p>Howard is a brain-damaged Vietnam vet who can't speak or write, but who has managed to establish a reasonably good life in his small Midwestern hometown. In fact, Howard's chief limitation isn't his silence but his lingering romantic attachment to his high school girlfriend, Sylvia, now the drug-addicted single mother of a nine-year-old boy named Ryan (not Howard's child). Accustomed to Howard's devotion--and equally accustomed to rejecting his love, like a campfire she pees on again and again--Sylvia more or less dumps Ryan on him when she is forced to enter rehab. The handicapped vet must forge a relationship with the sullen fatherless boy.</p>
	<p>The Phantom of the Opera By Gaston Leroux</p> <p>This thrilling novel and its many adaptations have captured the imaginations of countless audiences throughout the 20th century. The mystery classic featuring the "ghost" of the famed Paris landmark tells a gripping tale of human desire, fear, and violence before it resolves itself in a shocking and tragic confrontation.</p>
	<p>The Giant's House By Elizabeth McCracken</p> <p>The year is 1950, and in a small town on Cape Cod twenty-six-year-old librarian Peggy Cort feels like love and life have stood her up. Until the day James Carlson Sweatt--the "over tall" eleven-year-old boy who's the talk of the town--walks into her library and changes her life forever. Two misfits whose lonely paths cross at the circulation desk, Peggy and James are odd candidates for friendship, but nevertheless they soon find their lives entwined in ways that neither one could have predicted.</p>
	<p>The Heart is a Lonely Hunter By Carson McCullers</p> <p>The heroine is the strange young girl, Mick Kelly. The setting is a small Southern town, the cosmos universal and eternal. The characters are the damned, the voiceless, the rejected. Some fight their loneliness with violence and depravity, Some with sex or drink, and some -- like Mick -- with a quiet, intensely personal search for beauty.</p>

	<p>Of Human Bondage By W. Somerset Maugham</p> <p>This classic bildungsroman tells the story of Philip Carey, a sensitive boy born with a clubfoot who is orphaned and raised by a religious aunt and uncle. Philip yearns for adventure, and at eighteen leaves home, eventually pursuing a career as an artist in Paris. When he returns to London to study medicine, he meets the androgynous but alluring Mildred and begins a doomed love affair that will change the course of his life.</p>
	<p>Mendel's Dwarf By Simon Mawer</p> <p>Dr. Benedict Lambert is an acclaimed British geneticist. His great-great-great uncle was Gregor Mendel, the reclusive Austrian monk who pioneered modern genetics. Ironically, Ben is the victim of one of nature's crueler jokes, a genetic mutation called achondroplasia. In other words, he is a dwarf. It has been his life's work to decode the gene that has made him how he is. Clever, sardonic, and vulnerable, he has another Jean in his life, Miss Jean Piercey, the woman with whom he hopes to find normal, reciprocated human love. But when rejection looms, Ben has to confront the ultimate temptation. Will he use science to seek revenge--and play God?</p>
	<p>Falling Boy By Alison McGhee</p> <p>Did you really rescue your mother from a fate worse than death on a cliff overlooking the sea? After a mysterious accident left him paralyzed, sixteen-year-old Joseph finds himself living with his father in Minneapolis and working hot summer days in a bakery. What happened to the life he used to live? Although they approach the mystery in different ways, two people in Joseph's new life--seventeen-year-old Zap, who also works in the bakery, and Enzo, a fierce and funny nine-year-old girl--both want to find out. "Are you really a superhero?" whispers Enzo, who secretly longs for her world to be transformed. "Please be a superhero." Stoically quiet, Joseph has never thought of himself as a superhero, especially now that he is in a wheelchair and can't feel his legs. But others disagree. Who is the hero? Who is the enemy? Is redemption possible, and if so, where is it to be found?</p>
	<p>The Speed of Dark By Elizabeth Moon</p> <p>In the near future, disease will be a condition of the past. Most genetic defects will be removed at birth. Unfortunately, there will be a generation left behind. Through various programs, they will be taught to get along in the world despite their differences. They will be made active and contributing members of society. But they will never be normal. Lou Arrendale is a member of that lost generation. Part of a small group of high-functioning autistic adults, he has a steady job, a car, friends, and a passion for fencing. Aside from his annual visits to his counselor, he lives a low-key, independent life. But then his quiet life comes under attack. It starts with an experimental treatment that will reverse the effects of autism in adults. But if he was suddenly free of autism, would he still be himself? Lou must decide if he should submit to a surgery that might completely change the way he views the world . . . and the very essence of who he is.</p>

	<p>The Dive From Clausen's Pier By Ann Packer</p> <p>Carrie Bell has lived in Wisconsin all her life. It's with real surprise she finds that, at age twenty-three, her life has begun to feel suffocating. She longs for a change, an upheaval, for a chance to begin again. That chance is granted to her, terribly, when her fiancé Mike is injured in an accident. Now Carrie has to question everything she thought she knew about herself. She must ask: How much do we owe the people we love? Is it a sign of strength or of weakness to walk away from someone in need? Packer's novel reminds us how precarious our lives are and how quickly they can be divided into before and after. It begins with a disaster that could happen, out of the blue, in anybody's life, and it forces us to ask how we would bear up in the face of tragedy and what we know, or think we know, about our deepest allegiances.</p>
	<p>Icy Sparks By Gwyn Hyman Rubio</p> <p>Eastern Kentucky, 1956. Life is hard and sweet for ten-year-old Icy Sparks. Try as she might, her secrets - those croaks, jerks, and spasms - keep slipping out. Her teachers think she's willful, her friends call her "the Frog Child." Exiled from the schoolroom, she spends time in a children's asylum, where she learns about being different and teaches her doctors even more. Yet it is not until Icy returns home that she truly begins to flower, through her friendship with the eccentric and obese Miss Emily. Under Miss Emily's tutelage, Icy takes her first steps back into the world, including her first hilarious and heartbreaking misadventures with romance.</p>
	<p>Angle of repose By Wallace Stegner</p> <p>A 1972 Pulitzer Prize winning novel about a wheelchair-bound historian, Lyman Ward, who has lost connection with his son and living family and decides to write about his frontier-era grandparents.</p>
	<p>Of Mice and Men By John Steinbeck</p> <p>Two migrant field workers in California's Salinas Valley during the Great Depression—George Milton, an intelligent and cynical man, and Lennie Small, an ironically-named man of large stature and immense strength but limited mental abilities—come to a ranch near Soledad southeast of Salinas, California to "work up a stake."</p>

Annotations from Syndetic Solutions unless otherwise noted.