

Young Adult Books with D/deaf Characters

The readers of these book are expected to be between the ages of 12 and 18 years of age. The books are in date order.

Title	Author	Deaf Characters / Awards Won	Target Age	Genre	Year 1st Published
<i>Impossible Music</i>	Sean Williams	The central character Simon (18) becomes Profoundly Deaf after a stroke aged 18, initially he communicates through text messages and written messages and is initially reluctant to learn Auslan . Another main character, "G", also known as George, has recently become deaf and she also has tinnitus.	14 yr+	YA Relationships And Music	2019

Title	Author	Deaf Characters / Awards Won	Target Age	Genre	Year 1st Published
<i>his Is Kind of an Epic Love Story</i>	Kheryn Callender	One of the main characters Ollie (16) is deaf and in a gay relationship during the book, he uses ASL or written English to communicate. He is surrounded by hearing characters who use some ASL to communicate with him. This book was nominated for the Lambda Literary Award for LGBTQ Children's/Young Adult (2019.)	14-18 yr	YA Romance / LGBTQ	2018
<i>Opal (The Raven Cycle #4.5)</i>	Maggie Stiefvater	One of the main characters Adam is deaf in his left ear.	13 yr+	YA Fantasy	2018
<i>27 Hours (The Nightside Saga #1)</i>	Tristina Wright	One of the main characters Nyx is deaf and uses ASL to communicate. He has Cuban ancestry and is pansexual .		YA Science Fiction	2017
<i>Begin, End, Begin: A #LoveOzYA Anthology</i>	Danielle Binks, Amie Kaufman, Melissa Keil, Will Kostakis, Ellie Marney, Jaclyn Moriarty, Michael Pryor, Alice Pung, Gabrielle Tozer, Lili Wilkinson	This collection of short stories includes Last Night at the Mount Solemn Observatory by Danielle Binks, which has a deaf character called King (18) that uses Auslan to communicate. This Anthology won the Australian Book Industry Award (ABIA) for Older Teacher notes are	14+yrs		2017

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		available. ^[57]			
<i>Smelly Hearing Aids and Fishy Lips: A deaf teenagers Journal</i>	Marc Heyez ^[58]	The central character Egg (17) is a teenage deaf boy "living in a hearing society" who uses lip-reading, hearing aids and speech to communicate. He has speech lessons in the book.	14-18 yrs	Set in 1983 Canada Comedy / Fiction	2017
<i>You're Welcome, Universe</i>	Whitney Gardner	The central character Julia is Deaf and has two Deaf Mums and is of Indian descent, she uses ASL , lip- reading and written English to communicate and she starts the story attending Kingston School for the Deaf and then attends a mainstream school. ^[59] Her friend Jordyn is also deaf and has a cochlear implant and uses both her voice and ASL to communicate. Winner of the Schneider Family Book Award for teenagers in 2018. ^[24] and Official Selection, Bank Street College Best Children's Book of the Year and Official selection, Tayshas Reading List.	14 yr+	YA Realistic Fiction / Art	2017

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<i>Being Jazmine</i> (Invisible book 3)	Cecil Paterson	The central character Jazmine (14 years old) starts the book wearing hearing aids but stops wearing them and develops friendships with Deaf Auslan users in this book. ^[60] In the book, she attends deaf camp and makes friends with lots of Deaf Auslan users.	13-16 yrs	YA Friendships And Deaf Identity	2017
<i>A Quiet Kind of Thunder</i>	Sara Barnard	One of the two main characters Rhys is Deaf and uses BSL to communicate. The other main character Steffi has been a selective mute for much of her life and the characters use BSL to communicate with each other.		Romance / Mental Health	2017
<i>Tone Deaf</i>	Olivia Rivers	The main character Ali Collins is 17 years old and became Deaf at the age of 10 following a brain tumour , she uses lip-reading, speech and ASL to communicate.		YA Romance, Music	2016

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<p><i>The Ghost Rebellion</i></p> <p>(<i>Ministry of Peculiar Occurrences</i> #5)</p>	<p>Pip Ballantine, Tee Morris, Philippa Ballantine</p>	<p>One of the characters in this book is deaf and uses sign language. They are an active operative of the Ministry.</p>		<p>Science Fiction, Steampunk</p>	<p>2016</p>
<p>The Raven King</p> <p>(<i>The Raven Cycle</i> #4)</p>	<p>Maggie Stiefvater</p>	<p>One of the main characters Adam is deaf in his left ear. This book was a Mythopoeic Fantasy Award Nominee for Adult Literature (2017) and Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Young Adult Fantasy & Science Fiction (2016).</p>		<p>YA Fantasy</p>	<p>2016</p>
<p><i>Talk Under Water</i></p>	<p>Kathryn Lomer</p>	<p>One of the two main characters Summer (16) has been deaf since birth and uses Auslan and written English to communicate. In the story, one of the other main characters learns Auslan.</p>		<p>YA Romance & Family</p>	<p>2015</p>
<p><i>There Will Be Lies</i></p>	<p>Nick Lake</p>	<p>One of the main character Shelby (17) and profoundly deaf and uses lip-reading and ASL to communicate.</p>		<p>YA Mystery / Fantasy</p>	<p>2015</p>

Title	Author	Deaf Characters / Awards Won	Target Age	Genre	Year 1st Published
<i>Song of Summer</i>	Laura Lee Anderson	One of the two central characters is Carter, he is Profoundly Deaf and was adopted by a family which is part of the New York Deaf community. His Dad is Deaf, his Mum is stay-at-home and an ASL interpreter and his Sister (9) has a cochlear implant which works well. Carter has had unsuccessful cochlear implant surgery, uses ASL to communicate. He often feels left out of the conversation when with hearing people. One of the main characters learns ASL in the book. ^[61]	12 yrs +	YA Music / Romance	2015
<i>Silence</i>	Deborah Lytton	One of the two main characters is Stella (15), in the story becomes deaf after a head injury which takes place during the book. She uses speech to communicate and gets a cochlear implant in the story. The other main character Hayden has a stutter . Described as a Clean Romance Book. Both the main characters have "damaged childhoods".	12 + yrs	YA Romance	2015

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<i>A Handful of Spells</i>	Kimberley A. Shaw	The central character Caitlin is deaf and uses speech and lip-reading to communicate. She goes to the school for witches, and there are attempts to assist her hearing using magic - the effect is similar to wearing hearing aids and does not cure or completely restore her hearing, as she still has many misunderstandings.		YA Fantasy	2014
<i>Flying to the Fire</i> <i>(Flying #2)</i>	Elyse Salpeter	One of the two main characters, Danny (13), is Deaf and uses ASL to communicate combined with some lip-reading and speech.		YA Action / Thriller / Afterlife	2014
<i>Waiting for a Sign</i>	Esty Schachter	One of the main characters, Ian (17) is Deaf and uses lip- reading and ASL to communicate, he attends a residential deaf school called Hawthorne School for the Deaf. The central character is his hearing sister and she is a fluent ASL signer, this book explores the relationships within families when one member is Deaf.	12 yrs +	YA Fiction Deaf culture	2014

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<i>Blue Lily, Lily Blue (The Raven Cycle #3)</i>	Maggie Stiefvater	One of the main characters Adam (17-18) is deaf in his left ear. ^[62] Adam is bisexual . This book has been nominated for these awards, Locus Award Nominee for Best Young Adult Novel (2015), Mythopoeic Fantasy Award Nominee for Adult Literature (2017), Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Young Adult Fantasy & Science Fiction (2014)	14 yrs +	YA Fantasy / Paranormal / LGBTQ	2014
<i>Invisible (Book 1)</i>	Cecil Paterson	The central character Jazmine aged 12, sometimes wears a hearing aid and uses lip-reading and speech to communicate. This book was a semi-finalist in the Amazon Breakthrough novel award in 2014.	10-17 yr	YA Romance	2014
<i>Invincible (Invisible book 2)</i>	Cecil Paterson	The central character Jazmine (13) sometimes wears a hearing aid and uses lip-reading and speech to communicate.	9-16 yrs	YA	2014
<i>The Fifth Vertex (The Sigilord Chronicles #1)</i>	Kevin Hoffman	The central character Urus was born Deaf and uses sign language to communicate. The book started with him attempting to commit suicide,		YA Fantasy	2014

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		<p>he later becomes the hero of the story with his magical powers, which develop as a result of his failed suicide attempt.</p>			
<p><i>The Dream Thieves</i> (<i>The Raven Cycle #2</i>)</p>	<p>Maggie Stiefvater</p>	<p>One of the main characters Adam is Deaf in his left ear and is in a homosexual relationship in this book. This book has been nominated for several awards including the Locus Award Nominee for Best Young Adult Novel (2014), Mythopoeic Fantasy Award Nominee for Adult Literature (2017), Milwaukee County Teen Book Award Nominee (2015), Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Young Adult Fantasy & Science Fiction (2013).</p>		<p>YA Fantasy</p>	<p>2013</p>
<p><i>Sounds of Silence</i></p>	<p>Phillip Tomasso III</p>	<p>The central character Marco becomes deaf aged 12 after being ill with meningitis, he then attends a residential Deaf School whilst learning ASL.</p>		<p>YA Fiction</p>	<p>2013</p>

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<i>My Haunting Love</i>	J.S. Wilsoncroft	The central character, Calista (16) is deaf and starts the book by moving away from the school for the Deaf she attends so then she attends a mainstream school. She uses ASL to communicate and so does the Ghost in the story.		YA Ghost	2013
<i>Dragonswood</i> <i>(Wilde Island Chronicles #2)</i>	Janet Lee Carey	The central character Tess (17) is deaf in one ear which is swollen and cauliflower-shaped as a consequence of repeatedly being beaten by her Father. The book is set in the Middle Ages.		YA Fantasy	2012
<i>Goodbye Tchaikovsky</i>	Michael Thal	The central character David (12) a violist suddenly becomes profoundly deaf. In the story, he learns ASL and lip-reading.	8 yrs +	YA Music	2012

Title	Author	Deaf Characters / Awards Won	Target Age	Genre	Year 1st Published
<p><i>The Raven Boys</i></p> <p><i>(The Raven Cycle #1)</i></p>	Maggie Stiefvater	<p>One of the main characters Adam is Deaf in his left ear. This book has been nominated for several awards including Bram Stoker Award Nominee for Best Young Adult Novel (2012), Mythopoeic Fantasy Award Nominee for Adult Literature (2017), Rhode Island Teen Book Award Nominee (2015), Milwaukee County Teen Book Award Nominee (2014), The Inky Awards for Silver Inky (2013).</p>		YA Fantasy	2012
<p><i>Invincible Summer</i></p>	Hannah Moskowitz	<p>One of the main characters Gideon was born deaf and uses a form of sign language to communicate.</p>		YA Romance	2011
<p><i>Whisper</i></p>	Chrisse Keighery	<p>The central character Demi (16) became profoundly deaf when she had meningitis aged 14. She uses lip-reading speech and Auslan to communicate, she now attends a college for the Deaf and has a Deaf friend called Stella who uses Auslan to communicate and is proud to be Deaf.</p>		YA Romance	2011

Title	Author	Deaf Characters / Awards Won	Target Age	Genre	Year 1st Published
Wonderstruck	Brian Selznick	<p>Both the main characters are Deaf, Ben born deaf in his left ear then comes profoundly deaf after being hit by lightning, he uses speech and written English to communicate. Rose is born Deaf and communicates using ASL and some lip-reading and speech.^[63]</p> <p>The story is told in pictures when telling Rose's story. This book was won the Schneider Family Book Award - Middle School Winner 2012. This book was made into a film in 2017 called Wonderstruck.</p>		YA Fiction	2011
<i>Five Flavors of Dumb</i>	Antony John	<p>This books main character Piper is Deaf and uses ASL to communicate. The family has a hereditary deafness and her new baby sister is born deaf and has cochlear implant fitted.^[64] Winner of a 2011 Schneider Family Book Award.^[65]</p>	12 yrs +	YA Romance / Music	2010

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<i>Freak City</i>	Kathrin Schrockle	One of the two main characters, Leah is deaf from birth and uses speech, lipreading and sign language to communicate. This book has been translated from German by Tammi Reichel and in 2019 a film based on the book will be launched entitled Freak City.		YA Romance	2010 Reprinted in 2014
<i>The Dark Days of Hamburger Halpin</i>	Josh Berk	The central character Will, transfers from a Deaf School to a mainstream school and uses lip-reading and sign language to communicate.		YA Fiction	2010
<i>T4: A Novel in Verse</i>	Ann Clare Lezotte	The central character Paula (13) is Deaf from an early age and used gestures to communicate before learning sign language in the book. The T4 program aimed to sterilize and/or kill thousands of Jews with disabilities.	12 yrs +	Set in Nazi Germany	2008
<i>Read My Lips</i>	Teri Brown	The central character Serena is deaf and wears hearing aids and uses lip-reading and speech to communicate. Reading lips sometimes causes some confusion.		YA Romance	2008

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<i>At Face Value</i>	Emily Franklin	The central character is taught ASL by Linus who is a hearing child of Deaf parents or a CODA .	12 + yrs	YA Romance	2008
<i>The King Commands: (Tales of the Borderlands #2)</i>	Meg Burden	The Deaf character Finn has a more prominent role in this book. He uses Sign language to communicate with his family, he also occasionally uses lip reading and telepathy powers as many of the other characters in the book are also telepathic.	11-15 years	YA Fantasy	2008
<i>The White Darkness</i>	Geraldine McCaughrean	The central character Sym (14) is deaf, she wears hearing aids and uses speech and lip-reading to communicate. This book was a Michael L. Printz award winner (2008) and Whitbread Children's Book Award (2005).		YA Adventure	2008

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<p><i>Northlander</i> <i>(Tales of the Borderlands #1)</i></p>	<p>Meg Burden</p>	<p>One of the characters in the book is called Finn, he is Deaf and uses Sign Language to communicate with his family, he also occasionally uses lip reading and telepathy powers as many of the other characters in the book are also telepathic. This book has won awards Book of the Year, YA Fiction by ForeWord Magazine and International Reading Association Notable Book.</p>	<p>12 yrs+</p>	<p>YA Fantasy</p>	<p>2007</p>
<p><i>Hurt Go Happy</i></p>	<p>Ginny Rorby</p>	<p>The central character Joey (13) became deaf when she was 6 years old following abuse and wears hearing aids and uses speech and lip-reading (with limited success) to communicate. Her mother doesn't let her learn to sign but In the story, she learns ASL.^[66] This book has won the Schneider Family Book Award for Teen Book (2008) and was a Missouri Truman Readers Award Nominee (2009.)</p>	<p>12yrs +</p>	<p>YA Realistic Fiction/ Animal testing, rights</p>	<p>2006</p>

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Dr Sylver and the Repository of the Past (The Sylver Chronicles #2)	Paul Kercal	One of the main characters Charlotte is deaf, she attends a mainstream school.	12-16 yrs	YA Christian novel, teenage pregnancy, depression and self harm	2006
<i>Dr Sylver and the Library of Everything</i> (The Sylver Chronicles #1)	Paul Kercal	One of the main characters Charlotte is deaf, she attends a mainstream school.	12-16 yrs	YA Christian novel, bullying	2004
<i>The Raging Quiet</i>	Sherryl Jordan	One of the main characters Raven is deaf. This book is set in the Medieval time period, he is frequently misunderstood but does develop a signed/gestural communication system with one of the other characters.	12 - 14 yrs	YA Historical Romantic Fiction	2004
<i>Of Sound Mind</i>	Jean Ferris	The central character Theo is a CODA and he is bilingual in English and ASL. He is the only hearing person in his family and his brother and his parents are Deaf and communicate using ASL. There is another CODA in the book called Ivy.	12-17 yrs		2004

Title	Author	Deaf Characters / Awards Won	Target Age	Genre	Year 1st Published
<i>Read My Lips</i>	Jana Novotny Hunter	<p>The central character Cat (teenager) became Profoundly deaf after having meningitis when she was five. In the story, she had learnt to speak before she lost her hearing but as she now lives in a residential Deaf school she no longer uses her voice. The students at the Deaf School are divided some use spoken English to communicate others use sign language.</p> <p>Cat's best friend is a Deaf sign language user. There is also another main character Joey which has transferred from another school and uses a total communication approach (speech and sign similarly). In the book, there is a School debate on speaking vs. signing vs. total communication. The writer has two siblings were profoundly deaf, her parents were hearing.</p>	12-14 yrs	Romance	2002
<i>Finding Abby</i>	Virginia M. Scott	<p>One of the main characters Abby becomes deaf aged 14 after meningitis and dies aged 16. The book explores Abby's feeling about becoming deaf.</p>	13 yrs +		2000

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<i>Balancing Act</i>	Virginia M. Scott	The central character Beth (15) became deaf and has balancing difficulties after a childhood illness.		YA Family Relationships	1997
<i>Mary Mehan Awake (Becoming Mary Mehan Book 2)</i>	Jennifer Armstrong	The central character falls in love with Henry, left deaf by the war, after exposure to loud explosions. He communicates by writing notes and she describes sound for him.	11yrs+	Historical fiction, set in America	1997
<i>A Sudden Silence</i>	Eve Bunting	The central characters brother Bry (16) is deaf and is killed in the presence of the main character by a hit and run driver. He could not hear the car coming from behind and uses lip-reading and sign language to communicate. This book has won the California Young Readers Medal for Young Adult (1992) and Oklahoma Sequoyah Award for YA (1991).	12 yrs+	Murder mystery / Alcoholism	1988 reprinted in 2007

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<i>Bird-eyes</i>	Madelyn Arnold	One of the main characters is Anna, who is a Deaf widow admitted to a mental hospital in the 1960's for depression. She is 'not allowed' to sign by the authorities but does teach the central character to sign. This book won the Lambda Literary Award for Lesbian Debut Fiction (1988.)		LGBQ / Mental Health	1988, reprinted in 2000
<i>Belonging</i>	Virginia M. Scott	The main character Gustie is 15 when she becomes deaf in her right ear after having meningitis. The book is about her adjusting to her new circumstances. Gustie uses a hearing aid and lip reading to communicate and then learns to fingerspell. In the book, she gets a boyfriend meets her boyfriend's brother and her boyfriend's sister-in-law who are both Deaf. She returns to her mainstream School where her friends are unkind. She has a notetaker at School. Published by Gallaudet University Press		YA Romance / Friendships	1986