

# Notable People with Disabilities

## Recommended for Grades 4 to 8

### Introduction:

Disability does not need to define who someone is. It's important to recognize the abilities of persons with disabilities and know that they can live rewarding lives, just like people without disabilities.

### Instructions:

Have students research a person with a physical (vision, hearing, or mobility) disability who has achieved great things. Students can write a report or prepare a presentation for the class which includes the following:

1. What did you learn about this person's life?
2. What is this person known or famous for?
3. What negative assumptions could someone make of this person based on their disability?
4. If this person came to visit, what might you need to do or change to ensure they could access all parts of your home or school, and be included in all activities.

### Some ideas of notable people with disabilities:

Stevie Wonder

Nyle DiMarco

Bethany Hamilton

Marla Runyan

Helen Keller

Millie Bobby Brown

Claude Monet

Frida Kahlo

Peter Dinklage

Ludwig van Beethoven

Judith Heumann

### Some ideas of notable Canadian people with disabilities:

Terry Fox

Chantal Petitclerc

Rick Hansen

**...or any other notable person with a disability you already know about or find out about through your research!**

**Check out our other Rick Hansen Foundation School Program offerings - available for youth of every age and grade level!**

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### **Lessons and Activities**

Classroom lessons and activities engage students on the topics of disability, accessibility and inclusion, and support teachers in leading these important conversations. Our online resource library provides access to lessons for grades K-12, in French and English, in a variety of subject areas, and that connect to the educational values of collaboration and relationships, critical thinking, equity and inclusion, personal growth, and social awareness and citizenship.

### **Videos and Storybooks**

Disability representation comes to life through fun storybooks and impactful videos. Books for younger readers including Roll On and The Boy Who Loved to Move are available in multiple formats including E-book and audiobook, and videos such as On the Move for elementary grades and Just Like U for secondary grades can all be accessed through our resource library.

### **Ambassador Presentations**

RHF Ambassadors are speakers with diverse lived experiences of vision, hearing and mobility disabilities who engage youth with their personal stories. By challenging perceptions about disability, youth are motivated to learn more about how they can become champions for change. Presentations are available at no cost to schools.

### **Difference Maker of the Year Awards**

It is important to acknowledge and celebrate how youth are making a difference. These annual awards recognize youth for their contributions in creating accessible and inclusive schools and communities for people with disabilities.

**Learn more, access resources, book an Ambassador Presentation, or nominate your Difference Maker at: [RickHansen.com/Schools](https://RickHansen.com/Schools)**



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