

# Deaf Media by Grade Level (Books & Movies with Summaries)

## Elementary (K–5)

**Movie: No Ordinary Hero: The SuperDeafy Movie** — Family film starring Deaf actor John Maucere as a superhero who inspires a young Deaf boy.

*Family-friendly*

**Movie: Wonderstruck** — Film intertwining two Deaf children's stories, one in 1927 and one in 1977.

*Family-friendly*

**Movie: A Silent Voice (anime)** — Japanese anime about a Deaf girl who is bullied, later befriends her tormentor. Best for older elementary.

*Bullying themes, best 4th–5th grade*

**Book: El Deafo** — Graphic memoir by Cece Bell about growing up Deaf and finding empowerment through a superhero alter ego.

*Family-friendly*

**Book: Song for a Whale** — Middle-grade novel about a Deaf girl connecting with a whale that cannot communicate with its species.

*Family-friendly*

**Book: Moses Goes to a Concert (series)** — Picture books integrating ASL, following Deaf boy Moses on adventures.

*Family-friendly*

**Book: Dad and Me in the Morning** — Story of a Deaf boy and his father enjoying a morning together.

*Family-friendly*

**Book: I Have a Sister—My Sister is Deaf** — Picture book showing a sibling's admiration for her Deaf sister.

*Family-friendly*

## Middle School (6–8)

**Movie: The Hammer** — Biopic of Deaf wrestler Matt Hamill, showing his challenges and triumphs.

*Family-friendly, some sports violence*

**Movie: Feeling Through** — Short film starring a DeafBlind actor, highlighting connection between strangers.

*Family-friendly*

**Book: Hurt Go Happy** — Novel about a Deaf girl who bonds with a signing chimpanzee.

*Some intense emotional scenes*

**Book: True Biz** — Novel set at a Deaf school, exploring identity, community, and activism.

*Best for advanced/mature middle readers*

**Book: Of Sound Mind** — CODA protagonist struggles balancing Deaf family responsibilities and his own dreams.

*Family-friendly*

**Book: Can You Hear a Rainbow?** — Nonfiction book that explains Deafness and communication.

*Family-friendly*

## High School (9–12)

**Movie: CODA** — Oscar-winning film about a hearing daughter of Deaf parents torn between family and her dream.

*Family-friendly, mild language*

**Movie: Sound of Metal** — Follows a drummer experiencing sudden hearing loss and learning to adapt.

*Mature themes, addiction*

**Movie: Children of a Lesser God** — Classic love story featuring a Deaf woman and her hearing teacher.

*Mature themes, romance*

**Movie: The Tribe** — Ukrainian film with all sign-language cast, no subtitles or voiceover.

*Mature, sexual content, violence*

**Movie: Baby Driver** — Action film featuring Deaf actor CJ Jones as the protagonist's foster father.

*Violence, PG-13 themes*

**Book: Train Go Sorry** — Memoir offering a personal look inside a Deaf school community.

*Best for high school*

**Book: Deaf Republic** — Poetry collection imagining a town where sign language becomes resistance.

*Mature themes, war/violence*

**Book: Seeing Voices** — Oliver Sacks' accessible nonfiction on Deaf culture and sign language.

*Appropriate for older students*

## College & Adult

**Movie: Through Deaf Eyes** — PBS documentary tracing Deaf history and culture in America.

*Educational*

**Movie: Audism Unveiled** — Documentary sharing first-person accounts of discrimination against Deaf people.

*Educational*

**Movie: See What I'm Saying** — Documentary following four Deaf entertainers.

*Educational*

**Series: Deaf U** — Netflix docuseries set at Gallaudet University, following Deaf college students.

*Mature themes, reality TV style*

**Series: This Close** — TV series created by Deaf actors/writers Shoshannah Stern & Josh Feldman.

*Mature themes*

**Movie: Beyond Silence** — German film about a CODA growing up with Deaf parents.

*Family-friendly, some mature moments*

**Book: Deaf Utopia** — Memoir by Nyle DiMarco about his life, modeling, activism, and Deaf pride.

*Appropriate for older teens/adults*

**Book: Haben** — Memoir by Haben Girma, first DeafBlind graduate of Harvard Law School.

*Inspirational, adult*

**Book: Deaf in America** — Cultural study of Deaf identity and community by Padden & Humphries.

*Educational, adult*

**Book: Inside Deaf Culture** — Sequel exploring Deaf cultural perspectives and experiences.

*Educational, adult*

**Book: A Journey into the Deaf-World** — Comprehensive look at Deaf culture, education, and society.

*Educational, adult*

**Book: Deaf Gain** — Essays reframing Deafness as a benefit to human diversity.

*Educational, adult*

**Book: The Mask of Benevolence** — Critique of paternalism and discrimination faced by Deaf people.

*Educational, adult*

**Book: Forbidden Signs** — History of how American society suppressed sign language.

*Educational, adult*