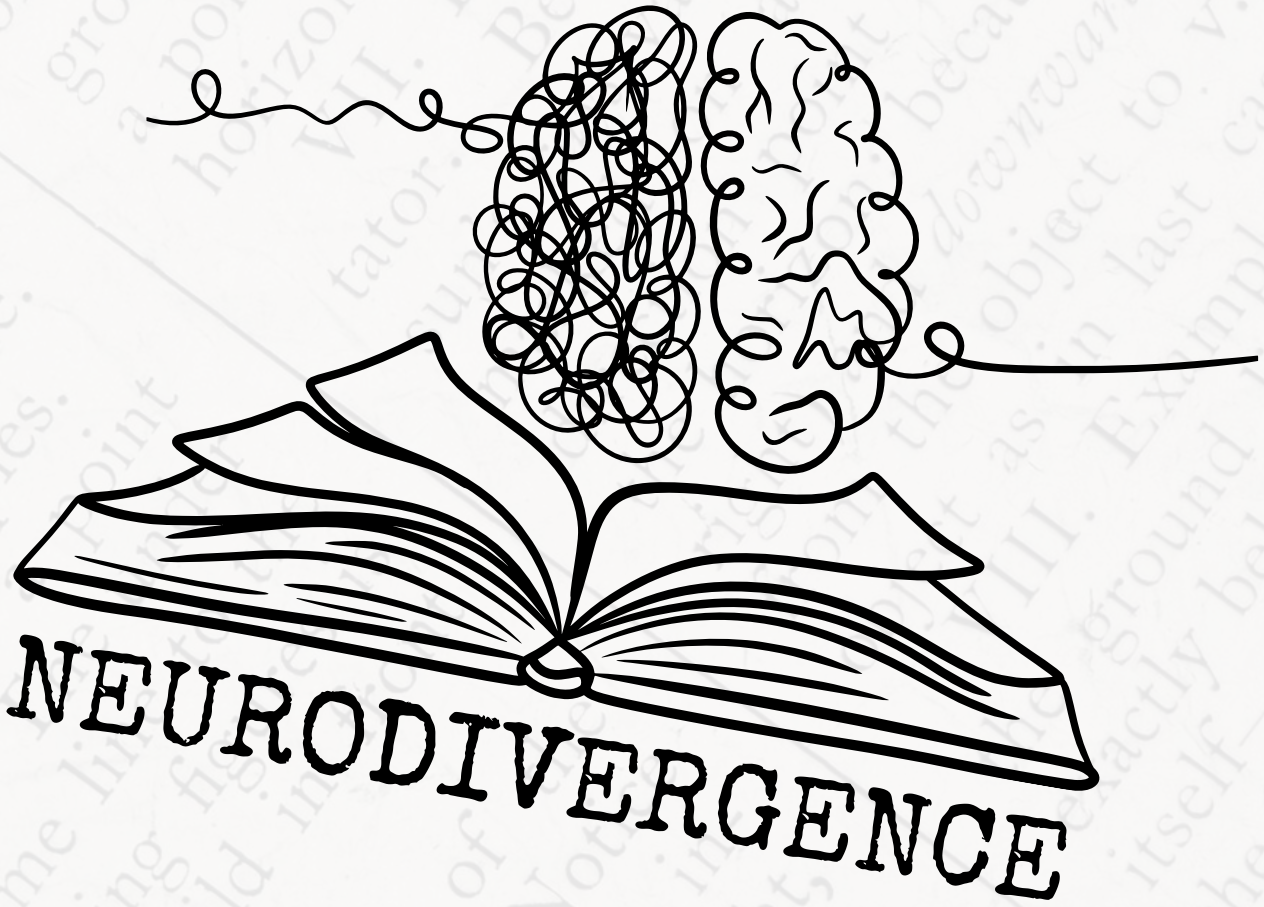
WNC BOOK LISTS

TOPIC CURATED TITLE SUGGESTIONS



HOW TO USE
THIS RESOURCE

In this resource you will find a curated list of books that feature characters that identify as neurodivergent as well as a variety of accompanying materials.

How to Use This Resource

1. Choose a title from the animal main character list.
2. Scan the QR code to play the read-aloud video.
3. Students complete the response sheet while listening.
4. Students vote: Would you keep reading?
5. Display the book cover poster to build classroom book buzz.

Classroom Use Ideas Quick List:

- First Chapter Friday
- Sub plans
- Book tasting stations
- Library preview lessons
- Early finisher reading activities

To check the reading level, video length or to find a book purchasing link, look at this Google Doc that organizes ALL of my First Chapter Friday read aloud videos alphabetically.

Table of Contents

Page 2: Instructions/Table of Contents
Page 4: What is Frist Chapter Friday?
Pages 5-6: Book Tracking Charts
Page 7: Book List
Pages 9-13 Individual Book First Chapter Friday Sheets
Pages 15-19: Individual Book Posters

** More resources will be added in the future including a Reading Round Up Video to briefly explain every video on this list and possibly even some thematic coloring sheets.
As always, please email me with any title requests or questions. (wordnerd@amandazieba.com)

NEURODIVERGENCE

HAPPY READING!

MUST TRY

Word Nerd Daily

an app from Amanda Zieba



First Chapter Friday Videos

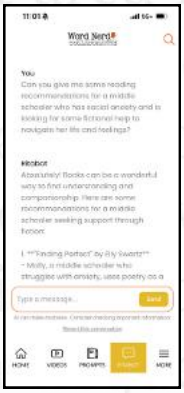


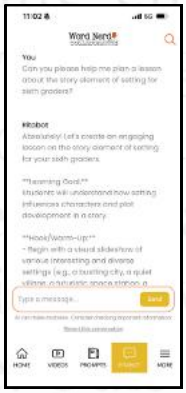
Writing Prompt Library

FREE!



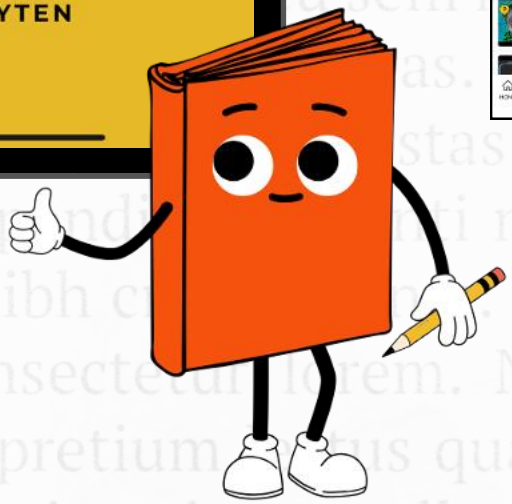
ChatBot for Reading Recs and Lesson Planning





Brain Break Videos





AVIALBLE FOR APPLE AND ANDROID DEVICES



FIRST CHAPTER Friday Videos

Not sure how First Chapter Friday works?

Check out this video for a full explanation and 4 implementation ideas.



If you prefer a written description in lieu of a video, click here.

Click here for a live, continually updated, Google Doc of the First Chapter Friday videos on my channel. Additionally you will find links to purchase the books and watch the read aloud videos, as well as book reading levels, genre/format, video length and more!

All my best,
Amanda Zieba

Teacher Planning Sheet

First CHAPTER Friday



DATE	TITLE	AUTHOR	GENRE	STUDENT REACTION?

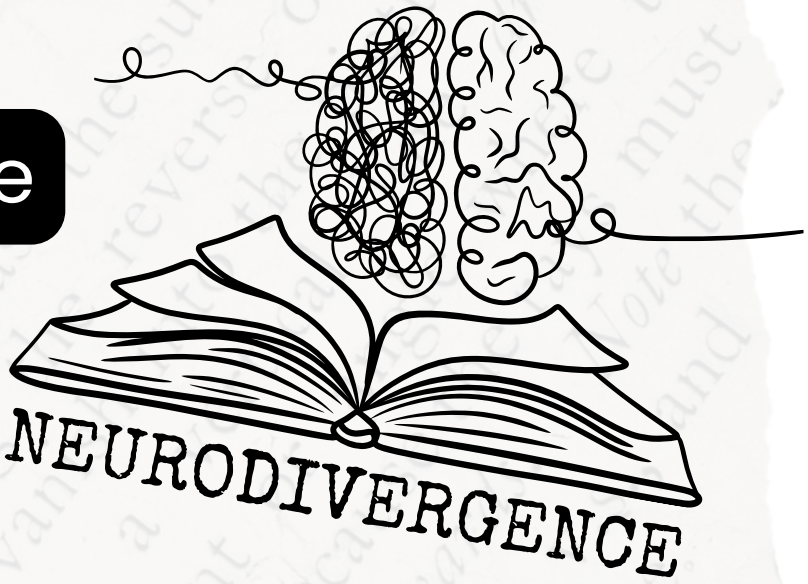
Book  Log

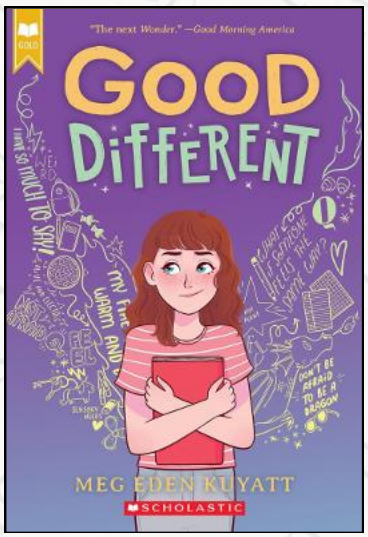
Name: _____ Quarter: _____

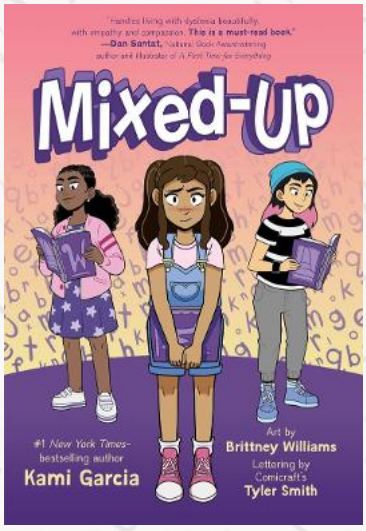
Title/Author	Rating: 1	2	3	4	5	Would Recommend?
1	○	○	○	○	○	Y N
2	○	○	○	○	○	Y N
3	○	○	○	○	○	Y N
4	○	○	○	○	○	Y N
5	○	○	○	○	○	Y N
6	○	○	○	○	○	Y N
7	○	○	○	○	○	Y N
8	○	○	○	○	○	Y N
9	○	○	○	○	○	Y N
10	○	○	○	○	○	Y N
11	○	○	○	○	○	Y N
12	○	○	○	○	○	Y N
13	○	○	○	○	○	Y N
14	○	○	○	○	○	Y N
15	○	○	○	○	○	Y N
16	○	○	○	○	○	Y N
17	○	○	○	○	○	Y N
18	○	○	○	○	○	Y N

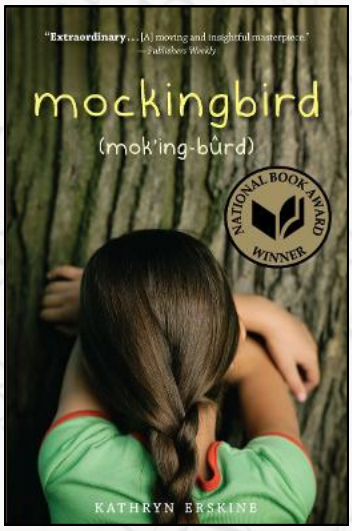
Created by Amanda Zieba, The Word Nerd

These books feature characters who identify as neurodivergent.









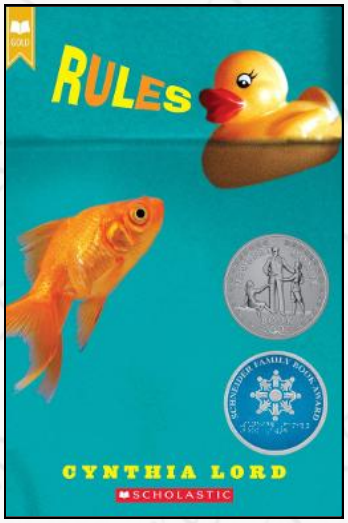
Good Different
by Meg Eden Kuyatt

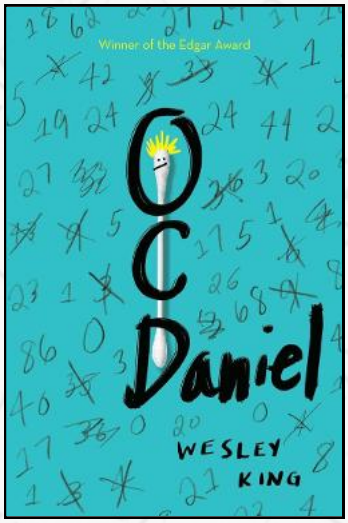
Mixed Up
by Kami Garcia

Mockingbird
by Kathryn Erskine

OCDaniel
by Wesley King

Rules
by Cynthia Lord





INDIVIDUAL BOOK SHEETS

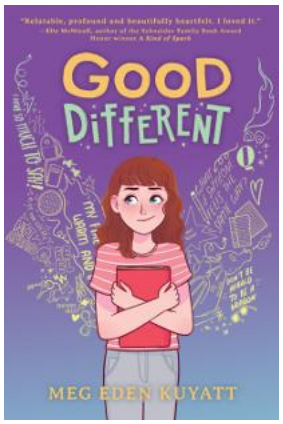




FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

* FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY * FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY * FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY *

Name _____ Date _____



Good Different by Meg Eden Kuyatt

Poetry

Novel in Verse

Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Selah knows her rules for being normal. She always, always sticks to them. This means keeping her feelings locked tightly inside, despite the way they build up inside her as each school day goes on, so that she has to run to the bathroom and hide in the stall until she can calm down. So that she has to tear off her normal-person mask the second she gets home from school, and listen to her favorite pop song on repeat, trying to recharge. Selah feels like a dragon stuck in a world of humans, but she knows how to hide it.

Until the day she explodes and hits a fellow student. Selah's friends pull away from her, her school threatens expulsion, and her comfortable, familiar world starts to crumble. But as Selah starts to figure out more about who she is, she comes to understand that different doesn't mean damaged. Can she get her school to understand that, too, before it's too late? This is a moving and unputdownable story about learning to celebrate the things that make us different. Good Different is the perfect next read for fans of Counting by 7s or Jasmine Warga.

Who Wrote It?

Meg Eden is a follower of Jesus, neurodivergent (autistic and anxiety disorder), an extroverted-introvert, and a complete nerd for all things Pokémon and Fire Emblem. She loves to hear about what people believe, what shows and games they love, and why. She lives with her husband and two cats, Chaos Theory (CT) and Hazel, also known as 'Floaf' (the fluffy loaf). Besides being a writer, Meg has worked as an advertising manager, creative writing instructor, eBay seller, research assistant in linguistics and neuroscience, and publishing and marketing contact for a small press. Meg received her MFA in creative writing from the University of Maryland College Park. She teaches creative writing courses.



AR Reading Level: 5.1

Lexile Level: unavailable

I want to read this book: YES / NO

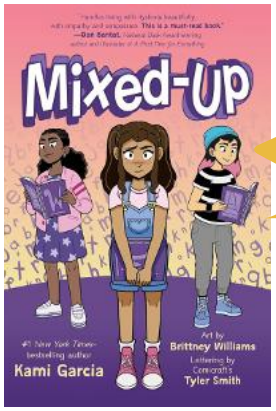
WHAT I THINK



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

* FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY * FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY * FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY *

Name _____ Date _____



Includes Author Interview!

Mixed-Up

by Kami Garcia

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

Read Aloud Video and Author Interview

What's It About?

Stella knows fifth grade will be the best year ever. Her closest friends, Emiko and Latasha, are in her class and they all got the teacher they wanted. Then their favorite television show, Witchlins, announces a new guidebook and an online game! But when the classwork starts piling up, Stella struggles to stay on top. Why does it take her so long to read? And how can she keep up with friends in the Witchlins game if she can't get through the text-heavy guidebook? It takes loving teachers and her family to recognize that Stella has a learning difference, and after a dyslexia diagnosis she gets the support and tools she needs to succeed.

Bestselling author Kami Garcia was inspired to write this special book by her daughter's dyslexia journey; her own neurodivergent experience; and the many students she taught over the years. With subtle design and formatting choices making this story accessible to all readers, Mixed-Up shows that our differences don't need to separate us. Mixed-Up has been lettered in Dyslexie to make reading as comfortable as possible for dyslexic readers.

Who Wrote It?

Kami Garcia a #1 New York Times, USA Today and international bestselling author and comic book writer. She has written 12 novels and graphic novels, that have been published in 51 countries and 38 languages and her books have sold more than 10 million copies worldwide!! She is also a cofounder of the Kid Lit book festival YALLFest and co-organizer of #Creators4Comics. She is married to Alex Garcia, a video game producer. They have two children together. Learn more about Kami at kamigarcia.com and follow her on Instagram and X @kamigarcia.



AR Reading Level: 3.0

Lexile Level: Unavailable

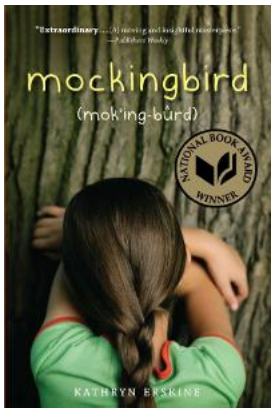
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

* FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY * FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY * FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY *



Name _____ Date _____

Mockingbird
by Kathryn Erskine

Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Caitlin has Asperger's. The world according to her is black and white; anything in between is confusing. Before, when things got confusing, Caitlin went to her older brother, Devon, for help. But Devon was killed in a school shooting, and Caitlin's dad is so distraught that he is just not helpful. Caitlin wants everything to go back to the way things were, but she doesn't know how to do that. Then she comes across the word closure--and she realizes this is what she needs. And in her search for it, Caitlin discovers that the world may not be so black and white after all.

THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER and ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT NOVELS OF OUR TIME FOR YOUNG READERS

Who Wrote It?

Kathryn was born in the Netherlands and has lived all over the world, including Israel, South Africa, Scotland, Canada and the United States! Her stories, found in the forms of both middle grade novels and picture books reflect her diverse living experiences. She now lives in Virginia and says, "I still love traveling and, as always, learning, reading, writing, playing games, eating chocolate, drinking coffee, and laughing with family and friends."



You can learn more about Kathryn on her website: www.kanthrynerskine.com

AR Reading Level: 3.6

Lexile Level: 630L

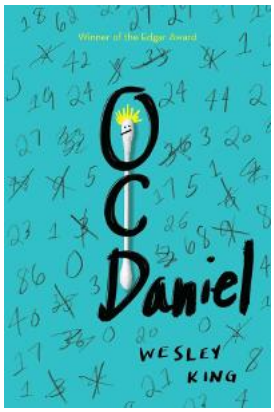
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

* FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY * FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY * FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY *



Name _____ Date _____

OCDaniel
by Wesley King

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

Read Aloud Video

What's It About?

Daniel is the back-up punter for the Erie Hills Elephants. Which really means he's the water boy. He spends football practice perfectly arranging water cups—and hoping no one notices. Actually, he spends most of his time hoping no one notices his OCD habits—he calls them Zaps: avoiding writing the number four, for example, or flipping a light switch on and off dozens of times over. But everything changes when a girl at school, who is unkindly nicknamed Psycho Sara, notices him for the first time. She doesn't just notice him: she seems to peer through him. Then Daniel gets a note: 'I need your help,' it says, signed, Fellow Star Child—whatever that means. And suddenly Daniel, a total no one at school, is swept up in a mystery that changes everything for him.

With great voice and grand adventure, this book is about feeling different and finding those who understand.

EDGAR AWARD WINNER FOR BEST MYSTERY
BANK STREET BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR
SILVER BIRCH AWARD WINNER

Who Wrote It?

The author of 12 novels and counting, Canadian author Wesley King has received over twenty literary awards and seen his books published worldwide. Focusing on middle grade and young adult liter-ature, King is best known for his collaboration with Kobe Bryant on the #1 New York Times Bestselling Wizenard Series, as well as the Edgar Award-winning OCDaniel, which was also a Bank Street Best Book of the Year and Silver Birch winner. His most recent release, Sara and the Search for Normal, won both the Violet Downey and Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Awards. He currently



splits his time between Nova Scotia, Canada, and a an attempt to travel around the world on a creaking 1967 sailboat.

AR Reading Level: 3.9

Lexile Level: 560L

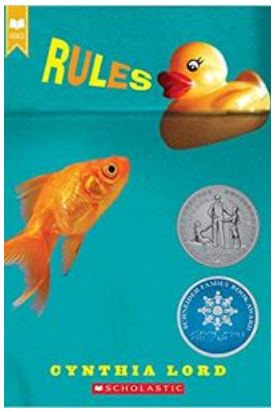
I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



Use this graphic organizer with the First Chapter Friday videos on YouTube from the Word Nerd.

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Name _____ Date _____

Rules
by Cynthia Lord

Read Aloud Video

Here is a little background information about our First Chapter Friday title and its creator. Feel free to add your own notes and thoughts in the bottom box.

What's It About?

Twelve-year-old Catherine just wants a normal life. Which is near impossible when you have a brother with autism and a family that revolves around his disability. She's spent years trying to teach David the rules from "a peach is not a funny-looking apple" to "keep your pants on in public" -- in order to head off David's embarrassing behaviors. But the summer Catherine meets Jason, a surprising, new sort-of friend, and Kristi, the next-door friend she's always wished for, it's her own shocking behavior that turns everything upside down and forces her to ask: What is normal?

This book won the Newbery Honor Award in 2008.

You can write a letter to the author using this address:

Cynthia Lord
c/o Scholastic Inc.
557 Broadway
New York, NY 10012-3999

Who Wrote It?

"My life as a writer began at age four with a song collaboration with my sister. The song was called "Ding Dong the Cherries Sing," and we forced anyone within a 12-mile radius to listen to us sing it, over and over and over. I've come a long way from the girl backspacing over mistakes on the Royal typewriter, reusing the same piece of carbon paper until the letters were ghostly pale. Now I backspace on my computer, and nobody needs to know how many mistakes I make. Some things haven't changed. I still love watching



words jump onto the page and I still love making people laugh and cry and shiver with my writing. I still love to read a great story."
-Cynthia Lord

AR Reading Level: 3.9 Lexile Level: 780L

I want to read this book: YES / NO

WHAT I THINK



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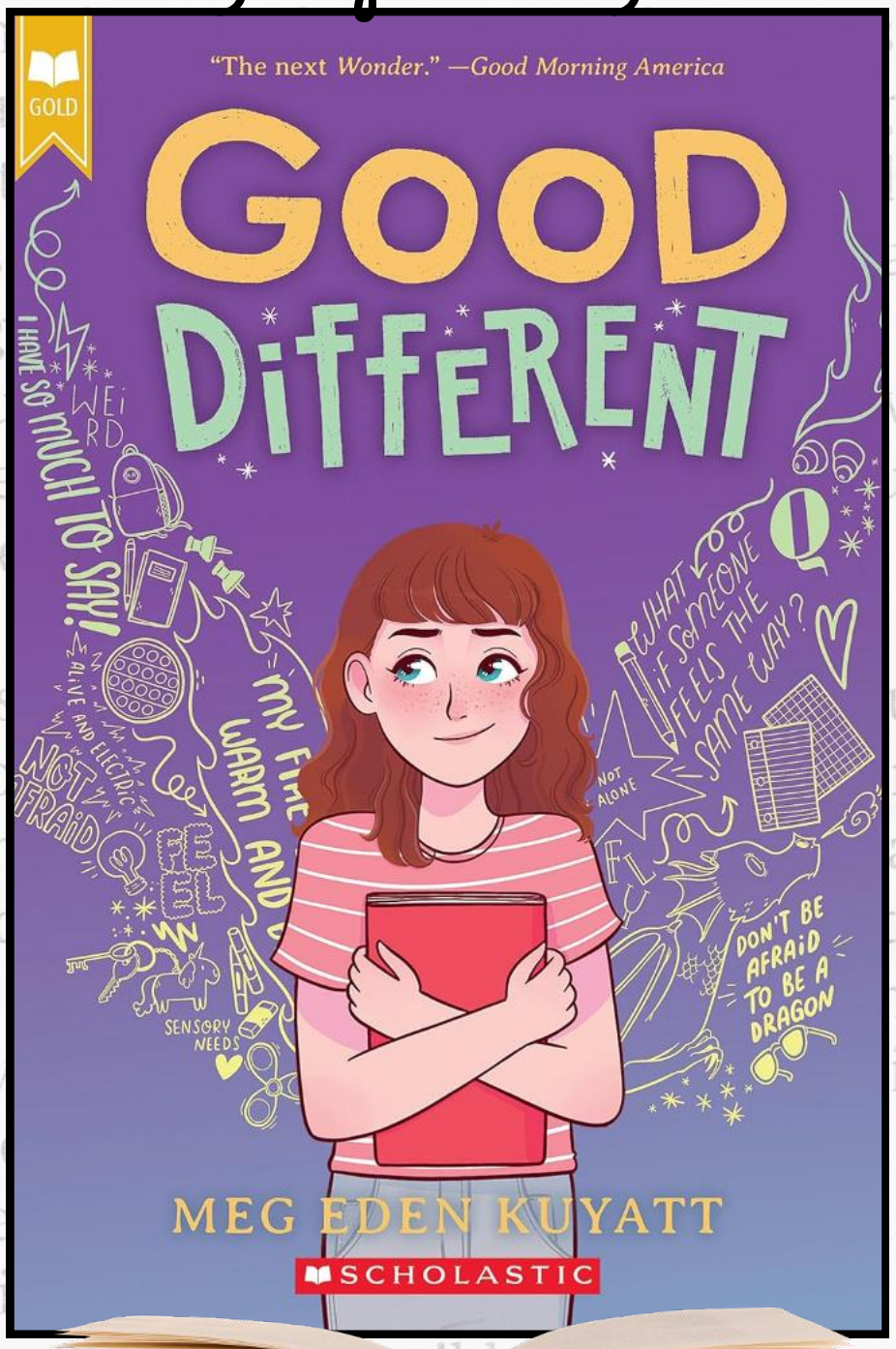
INDIVIDUAL BOOK POSTERS



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

GOOD DIFFERENT

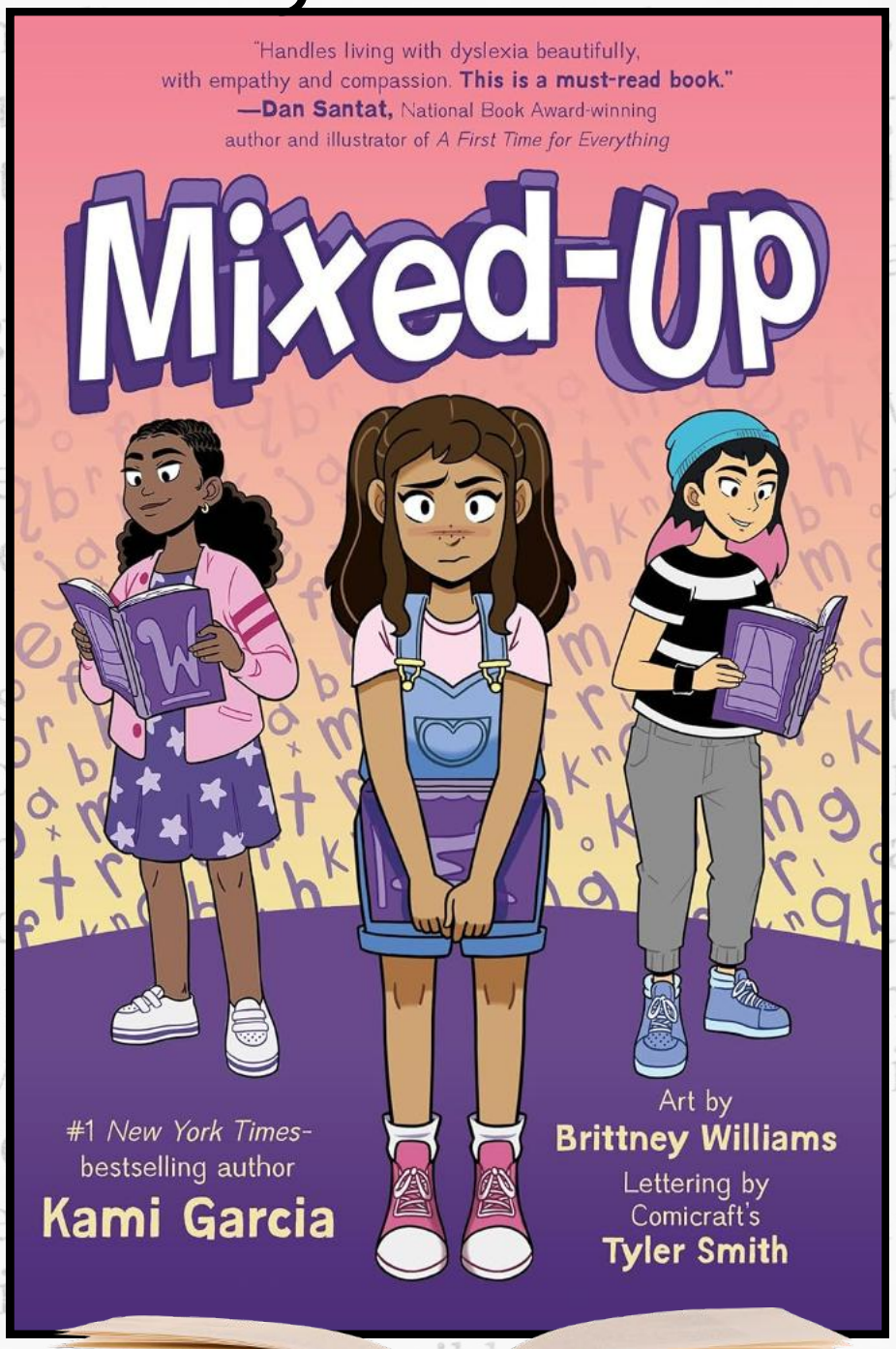
By Meg Eden Kuyatt



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

MIXED-UP

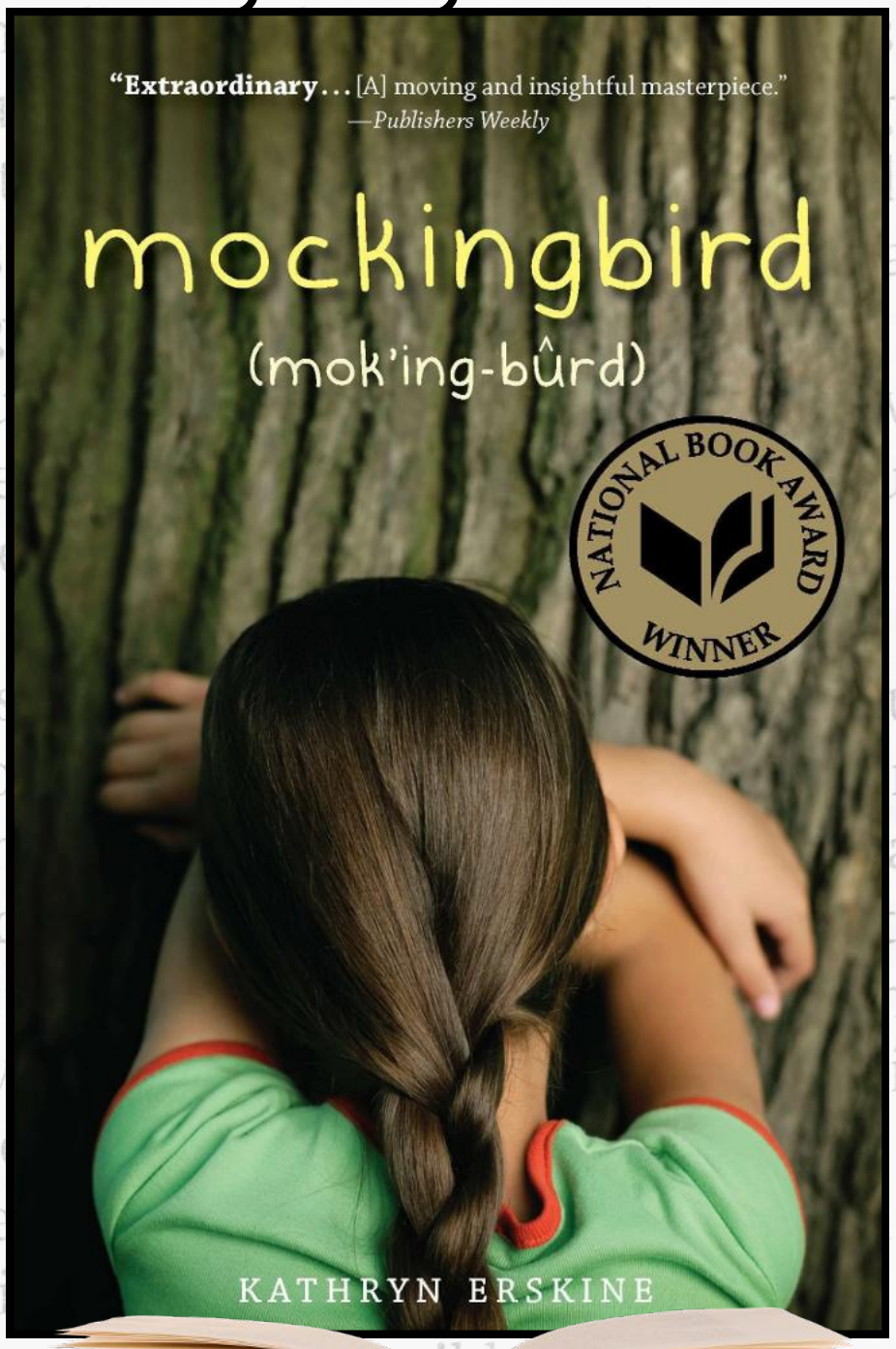
By Kami Garcia

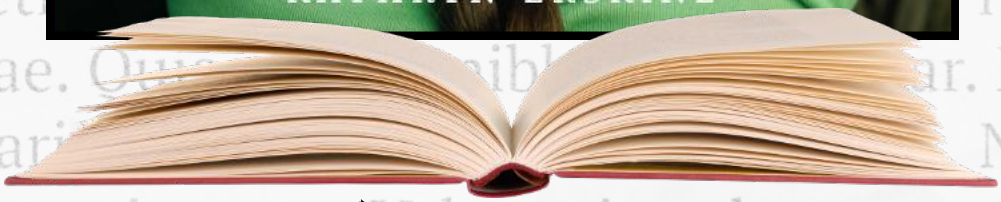


FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

MOCKINGBIRD

By Kathryn Erskine

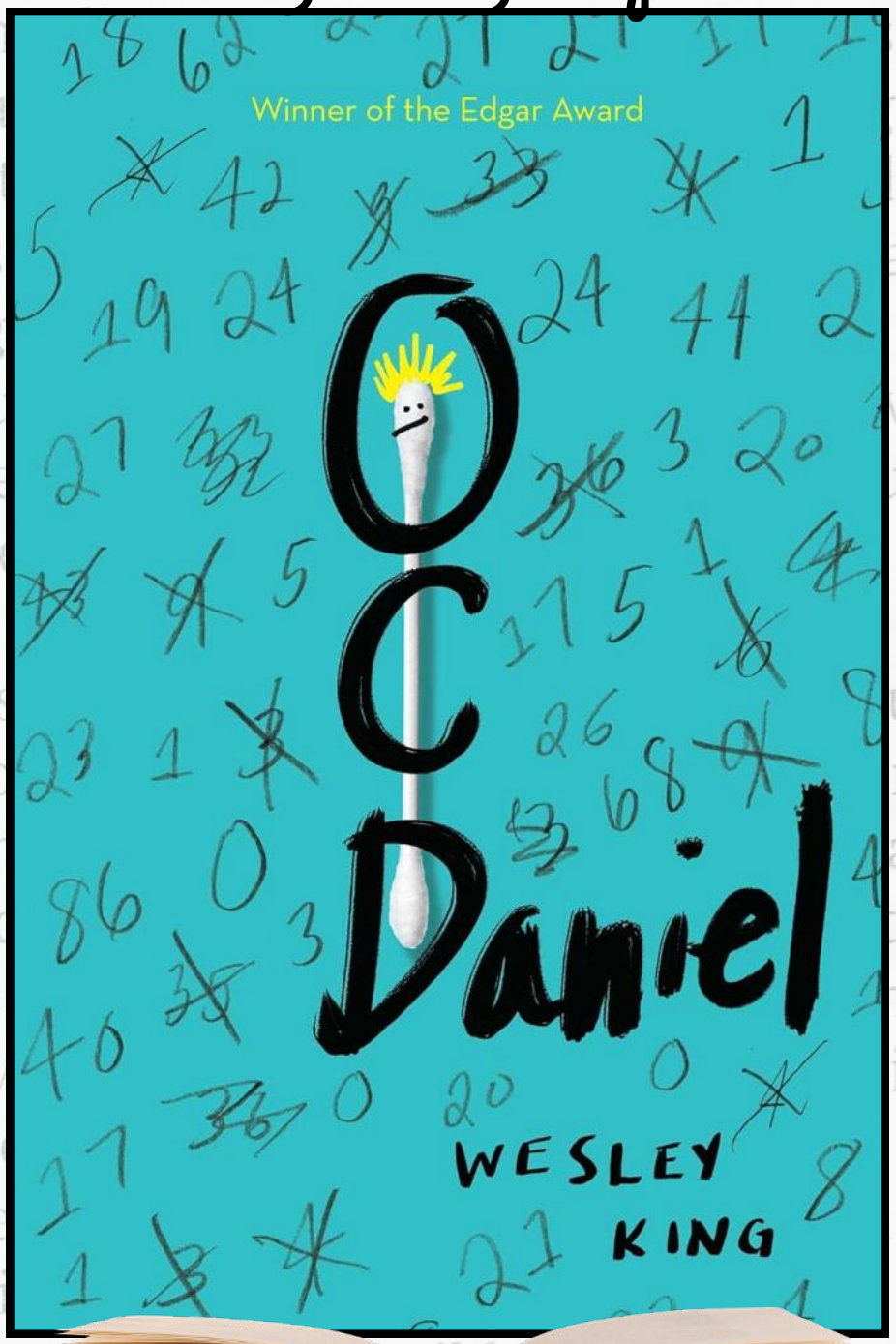




FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

OCDANIEL

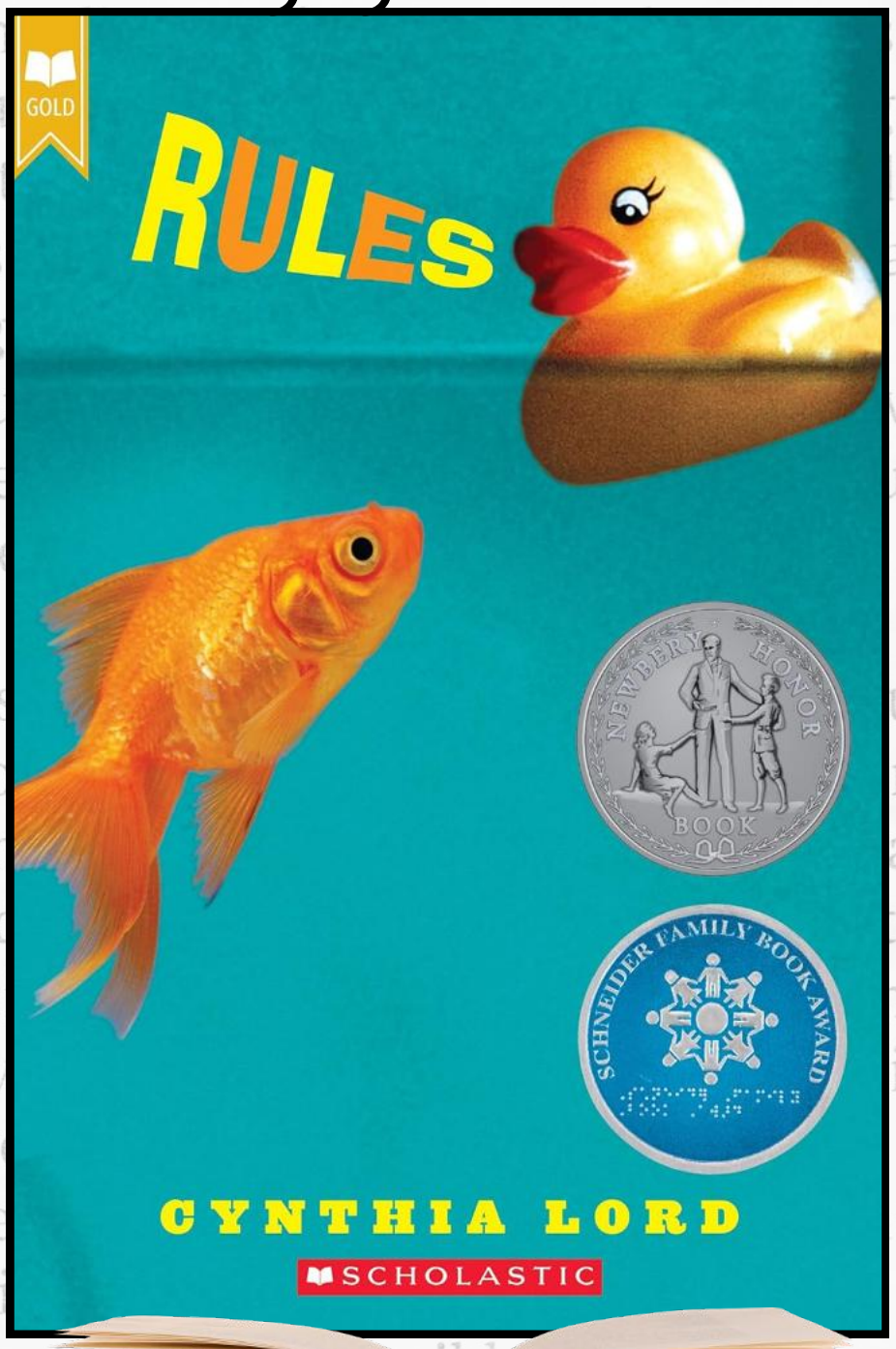
By Wesley King



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY

RULES

By Cynthia Lord



FIRST CHAPTER FRIDAY