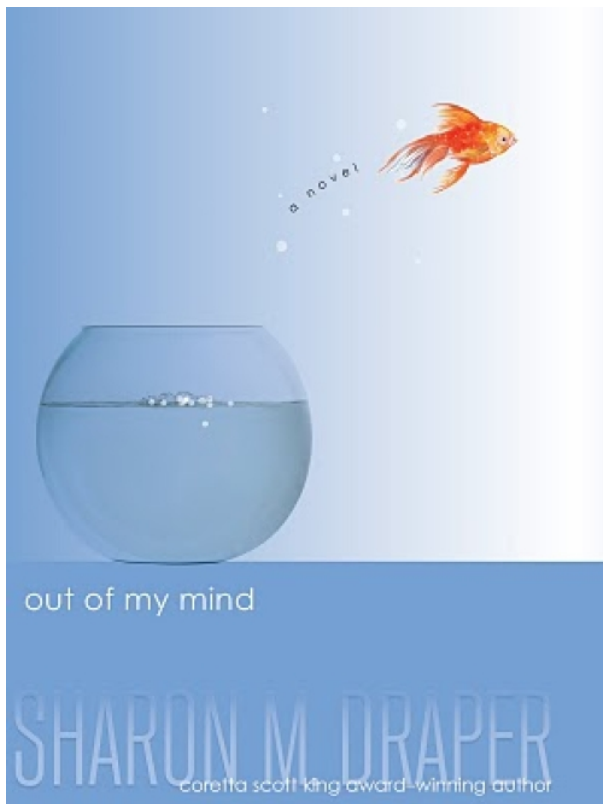


## Out of My Mind

Draper, Sharon M.



Melody is a brilliant fifth grader with a photographic memory and all the usual feelings of girls her age, trapped inside a body with cerebral palsy, leaving her unable to move, care for herself or communicate much of what she is feeling.

**Collections** ARC-BC Novel

**Subject** Career Education

**Grades** 4-6

**Primary Identifier** 9781416971719

**Evaluation Date** Oct 2012

**Copyright** 2010

## Resource Evaluation

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## **CURRICULUM FIT**

**Does the resource support BC curriculum?**

Extensively

**Does this resource address the prescribed learning outcomes for this BC curriculum?**

Extensively

**Can the resource be used for cross-curricular studies?**

Extensively

**This product supports the Core Competencies of the BC curriculum:**

- Reading
- Healthy living

Because of the many themes covered in this book it could easily be used across the curriculum. In Health and Career Education it would provide rich discussion around the topics of friendship, bullying, misconceptions and treatment of people with disabilities. The importance of language, words and communication fits well with Language Arts. This book might also lead students to further research computers and technological tools used for people with physical disabilities.

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## **SUGGESTED CLASSROOM USAGE**

This would be an excellent read aloud novel to inspire and provoke discussion regarding disabilities, differences and inclusion. Whether as a read aloud or for Literature Circles, it would be beneficial to give the students some background knowledge on inclusion vs. segregation. The school system model in the story, which segregates students with disabilities from regular students, appears outdated and will likely differ from what the students are familiar with.

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## **SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

### **Ability:**

The term “mentally retarded” is used throughout the book and may be offensive if not discussed ahead of time.

**Do the social considerations support, rather than detract from, student learning?**

Extensively

### **Social Considerations Comments:**

The power of this story lies in the narration done by Melody herself. With much detail and in the voice of a typical 11 year old, Melody helps the reader understand the challenges and frustration she faces, however, enough humour is infused throughout to leave one feeling empathy rather than pity. When describing her other classmates, Melody explains and gives insight into other disabilities such as autism, down syndrome, severe brain damage, etc.

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## **GENERAL CONTENT**

### **Content**

**Is the resource engaging?**

Extensively

**Is the content current for the intended curriculum and grade?**

Extensively

**Is the content accurate for the intended curriculum and grade?**

Extensively

**Is the content timely and important for student broad understandings?**

Extensively

**Audience:**

**Is the content appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?**

Extensively

**Is the content of particular interest to male students?**

Extensively

**Is the content of particular interest to female students?**

Extensively

**Is the language use appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?**

Extensively

Although the story is about an 11 year old girl, the enlightening and powerful messages given throughout the book such as empathy, inability to communicate, belonging, etc. would resonate with a wide audience, including teens. Uncomplicated in vocabulary and structure, it would be an easy independent read for intermediate grades.

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## **NOVEL**

### **Literary merit**

**Does the text show insight into the complexity of the human condition?**

Extensively

**Does the text broaden students' experiences and understanding?**

Extensively

**Does the text provide opportunities for creative and critical thinking?**

Extensively

**To what degree is this text stylistically rich?**

Extensively

### **Plot description:**

Melody is a brilliant fifth grader with a photographic memory. Although she thinks and feels much like girls her own age she is trapped inside a body with cerebral palsy, leaving her unable to move, care for herself or communicate much of what she is feeling. Melody discovers a computer device that allows her to 'speak' for the first time and, while her new voice brings some validation, many poignant moments in the story reveal that it cannot change the world around her or how she fits in it.

### **Related Comments:**

Misconceptions about people with disabilities are revealed as Melody describes interactions with teachers and students (who appear thoughtless and cruel) and even her parents who attempt but often fail to understand her. At times, the portrayal of others appears unrealistic and weak: i.e. repeated discrimination and cruel treatment from her teacher and classmates is not properly addressed by the school or Melody's parents. Melody's abilities seem implausible and exaggerated at times.

### **Genre:**

Contemporary

### **Literary Highlights:**

- Well-developed themes
- Point of view

**Type:**

Novel

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**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS****Readability:**

- At intended grade level(s)

Awards: 2011-Bank Street College of Education, 2010-Kirkus Reviews Best Children and Teen's book, San Francisco Chronicle Best Book of the year, 2011-12- Virginia Readers' Choice Reading List, GoodReads.com-best middle grade book of the year, Parents' Choice Award Silver Medal, Texas Bluebonnet Master List, Essence Magazine Book of the Year, 2011-Notable Children's Books in Language Arts, top 10 Book of the Year for Shelf Awareness, 2011-Cooperative Children's Book Center Choice

**Resource URL**

<https://focusedresources.ca/en/k-12-evaluated-resource-collection/out-my-mind>