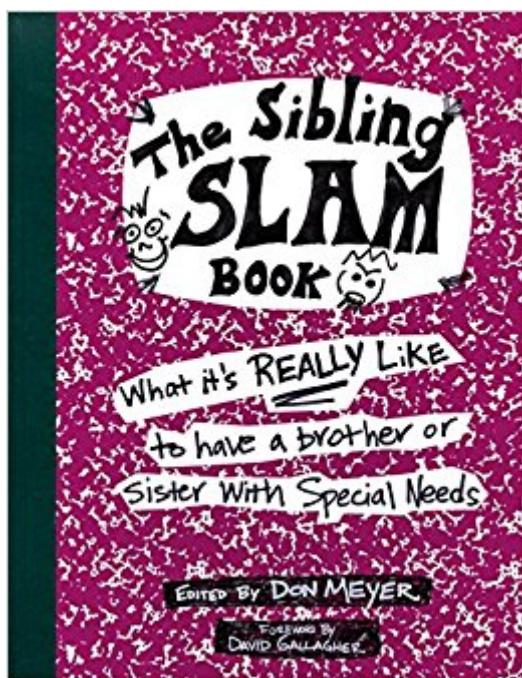


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The Sibling Slam Book: What It's Really Like To Have A Brother Or Sister With Special Needs



Synopsis

(2006 Independent Publishers Book Awards: Finalist in Juvenile-Teen-Y/A Non-Fiction category)

Give teenagers a chance to say what's on their minds, and you might be surprised by what you hear. That's exactly what Don Meyer, creator of Sibshops and author of VIEWS FROM OUR SHOES did when he invited together a group of 80 teenagers, from all over the United States and abroad, to talk about what it's like to have a brother or sister with special needs. Their unedited words are found in THE SIBLING SLAM BOOK, a brutally honest, non-PC look at the lives, experiences, and opinions of siblings without disabilities. Formatted like the slam books passed around in many junior high and high schools, this one poses a series of 50 personal questions along the lines of: What should we know about you? What do you tell your friends about your sib's disability? What's the weirdest question you have ever been asked about your sib? If you could change one thing about your sib (or your sib's disability) what would it be? What annoys you most about how people treat your sib? THE SIBLING SLAM BOOK doesn't slam in the traditional sense of the word. The tone and point-of-view of the answers are all over the map. Some answers are assuredly positive, a few are strikingly negative, but most reflect the complex and conflicted mix of emotions that come with the territory. Whether they read it cover to cover or sample it at random, teenagers will surely find common ground among these pages and reassurance that they are not alone. It is a book that parents, friends, and counselors can feel confident recommending to any teenager with a brother or sister with a disability. Also by Don Meyer: Views from Our Shoes: Growing Up with a Brother or Sister with Special Needs Thicker than Water: Essays by Adult Siblings of People with Disabilities

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 6 Up
This multifaceted vehicle for eliciting some unique and many universal emotions is designed specifically for siblings of special-needs children. An adolescent mainstay, the slam book is the chosen venue for encouraging the venting of opinions, hopes, fears, frustrations, and triumphs. Comments by 81 young people display the recurring theme of optimism, complicated by hard work, dedication, resentment, and fierce protection, all as by-products of love. Some questions serve as icebreakers, such as "What should we know about you?" and "What should we know about your sib?" while thought-provoking chapters include "What life lesson have you learned from being a sib?" and "What are some advantages of having a sibling with a disability?" Typical slam-book questions such as "Has your sib ever embarrassed you?" are interspersed with chapters like "Ever feel invisible?" Answers from the large sample group supply ample material so that each reader is sure to relate to some of the thoughtful or heartfelt responses. Highly recommended for all middle, high school, and public libraries.

Sharon A. Neal, Alvernia College, Reading, PA Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"As a parent, I found it very worthwhile to read the thoughts and feelings of 80 teen siblings." -- Down Syndrome News, Volume 28, Number 4 "I highly recommend this book for any teen siblings of a child with special needs, or your clinic waiting room." -- ADVANCE for Physical Therapists & PT Assistants, September 12, 2005 "The Sibling Slam Book would be an excellent choice for a Christmas gift or any occasion." -- Breakthrough, Fall 2005 "[F]unny, smart, opinionated and thoughtful, the teens' observations weave together a realistic portrait of the complexities of sibling relationships." -- NDSS Newsletter, Summer 2005 "[O]ne of the best and most user-friendly books Disability Resources has come across in the growing field of 'sib books.'" -- Disability Resources Online, May 2005

Book is great. Arrived with wrinkled back cover :(

I bought this book for my 12 year old daughter. She has a 14 year old sister who is mentally handicapped, has Childhood Apraxia of Speech, OCD (to the point of stealing from family members) and a severe mood disorder which at times can lead to violent outbursts. My daughter read about 3

chapters and told me the book was not for her. I asked her why and she said "These kids with special needs sibs have it all Marshmallows and Rainbows! There are no relationship issues." I read part of the book too and unfortunately had to agree with her. If you have a special needs kid that is kind and gentle and gets along with family members, you would likely enjoy this book. I love the way it's laid out. The kids (authors) are thoughtful in what they share. However, if you have a challenging, painful relationship between a special needs child and their sib, this does not offer a lot of support.

I got this book for my daughter to read. Her twin brother has special needs and she struggles with this. This book was really good for her to see that she is not alone. That her feelings are normal. Ideas on how to deal with these feelings. D

I got this book for my 11 year old son who has been withdrawing and sullen as his brother's issues have become more acute. He is the type of kid who won't open up and gets passive aggressive about his frustrations. My son loves to pick this book up and read in bits and pieces and add his own comments in swirls and long lines...sometimes teeny tiny writing too! I would say this is BY FAR been better than any therapy he has had to date. BUY THE BOOK!

My teen/preteen did not care much for the book. I thought it might make them feel better to know that they are not the only people in the world who deal with hard things at home due to a special needs sibling but they just did not care to read it really. It seemed great to me but they did not care about it and we ended up getting rid of it.

I grew up with a mentally retarded sister, but in the days when nobody talked about such things and I didn't know anybody else with a disabled sibling. How I wish I had a book such as this when I was young! Throughout the book are reflections of pretty much everything I felt, at all ages. And now, I have a son with Down Syndrome, and I notice his older teen brother picking it up from time to time. I highly recommend it.

Enjoy all of the sibshop books. A great resource.

Great book to help siblings relate

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