

Books that refer to children who wear glasses or that have pictures of children wearing glasses.

Even in these enlightened days, children still get teased for wearing glasses. Books where the main characters wear glasses themselves can help and so can ones where needing glasses is part of the plot. This book list includes books for very young children through to those at high school.

 **What Can Rabbit See?** by Lucy Cousins
(Walker Books Ltd)

The book gives a positive view of wearing glasses.

Rabbit wears glasses (or spectacles, as they are referred to in the book) so he can 'see well'. The child can identify 'what rabbit sees' on each page by lifting flaps to reveal hidden animals. This is a simple, bold picture book that will appeal to very young children.
Age 1+

 **Eliot Jones, Midnight Superhero** by Anne Cottringer, illustrated by Alex T Smith
(Scholastic)

A great choice for a child who wears glasses (the featured hero is bespectacled). It's also a good way to discuss prejudice with children, and to encourage them to look beyond outward appearance.

By day, Eliot Jones is a very quiet boy, who spends his days reading, feeding his goldfish and watching Mr Smith wash his car. But when the clock strikes midnight, Eliot is a superhero and flies about rescuing people and saving the day. Even the Queen requires his assistance to catch a royal jewel thief. One night, his most important mission turns out to be stopping a giant meteor crashing into the Earth. Eliot manages to stop the meteor in true James Bond style, by flying a supersonic jet and firing a Rocket Launcher. The Queen gives Eliot an award for his courage and ingenuity. The final pages of the book describe how tiring it is being a Midnight Superhero...which explains why Eliot is so quiet in the daytime!

Age 3+

Bumposaurus by Penny McKinlay, illustrated by Britta Teckentrup
(Frances Lincoln)

Bumposaurus is given his name before he even hatches: he cannot find his way out of his shell. Needless to say his short-sightedness leads him into all manner of misadventures. It's not until he has narrowly escaped being a Tyrannosaurus's dessert however, that his myopia is recognised and dealt with.

Illustrated in bold, bright colours with lumpy shapes, this is a funny story dealing with a serious issue that it deals with sensitively though somewhat simplistically. Nevertheless, it provides a good starting point for discussion about differences and why some children need to wear glasses.

Age 1+

 **Monty, the Dog who wears Glasses** by Colin West

(Colour Jets)

When Monty has a series of unfortunate accidents, the small boy who owns him gives him a pair of glasses. The glasses are really just empty frames and don't make any difference but Monty likes them enough to continue wearing them. Each chapter of the book is a free-standing story presenting a Monty's eye view of the world. He likes food, sleep and comfort, doesn't like work and exercise and his attempts to be helpful are frequently misunderstood. The humour is just right for children, making this a good choice for new and less confident readers including older ones. It may be hard to find new but should still be available in libraries.

Ages 6-8 and older, weak readers.

 **The Harry Potter books** by JK Rowling

(Bloomsbury)

Good news for those who haven't realised it yet - the current number one character in children's fiction wears glasses. He's also a wizard by birth, has more than his fair share of destiny and goes to an amazing boarding school where letters are delivered by owl and broomsticks really fly. Who better for bespectacled children to identify with?

For ages 8+ Very popular with reluctant readers.

 **The Arthur Books** by Marc Brown

(Red Fox)

Arthur is a popular character with younger children who wouldn't be the same without his glasses. He has his own cartoon series on the BBC and there is a wide selection of books about him which range from board books for babies to first chapter books for 6-9 year olds.

 **X-Ray Mabel and Her Magic Specs** by Claire Fletcher

(Bodley Head)

In this story, it's a girl who wears the glasses and she is the only person who knows that they let her see through things. This extraordinary skill proves very valuable when her teacher disappears and is carried off to an alien planet. Lift-up flaps allow readers to discover what Mabel can see and there is also a decoding key to help them work out what the aliens are saying. Ages 5-9

 **Dogs Don't Wear Glasses** by Adrienne Geoghan

(Magi)

When everything starts going wrong, Nanny Nettles is sure her dog, Seymour, needs glasses but it eventually turns out that it is Nanny's vision which needs help, not her dog's. This amusing book makes a good starting point for discussing the need for glasses and the bright, colourful illustrations have plenty of amusing details to talk about. Good for 5-8 year olds, likely to attract reluctant readers and suitable for older children with special needs.

 **Winnie Flies Again** by Korky Paul and Valerie Thomas

(Oxford University Press)

Winnie and her cat, Wilbur, have always travelled by broomstick but when they start having trouble avoiding collisions, Winnie decides to solve the problem by turning the broomstick first into a bicycle, next into a skateboard and then into a horse. Still dogged by accidents, she finally tries walking but when even that doesn't work, she gets some glasses and finds she can fly safely again. A wonderfully funny story with hilarious illustrations full of amusing detail, and the long suffering Wilbur. Great fun for children of 4 to 8+ years and excellent for starting a discussion on wearing glasses. Likely to tempt reluctant readers and suitable for older children with special needs.

 **"Glasses for D.W."** by Marc Tolon Brown (illustrator) is a wonderful book:
(Haynes)

The book (part of the popular "Arthur" series for preschool kids) comes with colourful decorative stickers that the child can paste onto pictures on the pages. This book may be a big help in making wearing glasses seem like a fun thing.
(Arthur Step into Reading Sticker Book, paper)

 **Baby Duck and the Bad Eyeglasses** by Amy Hest, Jill Barton (illustrator)
"Ages 3-6. Baby Duck is not pleased with her new red glasses. She doesn't want to jump or play because they might fall off, and, worse, she doesn't even think she looks like herself. Her parents insist that the glasses suit her just fine, but it's not until Grandpa comes along and holds a real dialogue with her about the glasses that she comes to appreciate them. Every page is rooted in truth, from the parents' wish for Baby to just get over it and like the glasses to the little duckling's feelings that glasses somehow make her different. It takes a perceptive grandfather, who reminds her that he, too, wears red glasses, to show that glasses change nothing except how much better you see."

 **Magenta Gets Glasses!** By Deborah Reber, Troy Dugas (illustrator)
(Blue's Clues (8X8 Paperback))

"Magenta has to get glasses, and she's very nervous! Will the eye doctor's office be scary? What will the eye exam be like?"

 **Arthur's Eyes** by Marc Brown

"Arthur's Eyes is a tale about Arthur getting his first pair of glasses, and learning to be proud to wear them. Arthur is teased by his fellow classmates and is embarrassed of having to wear glasses. He soon learns that wearing glasses improves his school performance, and eventually leads to his acceptance by his classmates. Young children who read this book will learn to be proud of their personal image if they get eyeglasses."

 **Dogs Don't Wear Glasses** by Adrienne Geoghegan

"Nanny Needles, readers discover in the pictures, needs glasses, but she places the blame for all the accidents around the house on her poor dog: When she dumps the trash on the floor, Seymour is reprimanded for his clumsiness; when she washes his blanket and bones instead of the laundry, she decides that Seymour needs a haircut to improve his eyesight. Finally, Seymour is dragged to the doctor, for glasses; the doctor reluctantly obliges. Nanny, donning the spectacles just "to see how they look," discovers that they make things look much better.
(Picture book. 3-5)"

 **Chuckie Visits the Eye Doctor** – a Rugrats book by Luke David, Barry Goldberg
(Illustrator)

"Chuckie isn't seeing too well. He keeps bumping into furniture, and he's been sitting awfully close to the TV. What's worse, his dad decides that Chuckie has to go to the eye doctor for an eye exam!"
(Rugrats (8X8 Paperback),

Other titles that are worth considering:

-  **I Wish I Had Glasses Like Rosa** by Kathryn Heling
-  **What Can Pinky See** by Lucy Cousins
-  **Randy Kazandy, where are your glasses?** by Rhonda Fischer
-  **I Really Absolutely Must Have Glasses** (Charlie & Lola (8x8)) (Paperback)
by [Bridget Hurst](#) (Author), [Lauren Child](#)

Books about wearing or getting glasses:

- **Don't I look smart?** by Meredith & Joshua Braunstein
- **Bear's New Glasses** by Martha White
- **The Eye of the Fry Cook: A Story About Getting Glasses** (Spongebob Squarepants) by Erica David
- **Cromwell's Glasses** by Holly Keller
- **Spectacles** by Ellen Raskin
- **Glasses: Who Needs 'EM?** by Lane Smith
- **All The Better To See You With** by Margaret Wild
- **Tracks** by David Galef
- **Arthur's Reading Race; Glasses for DW** by Marc Brown (another in the Arthur series)
- **Baby Duck and the Bad Eyeglasses** by Amy Hest
- **Let's Talk About Needing Glasses** by Diane Shaughnessy
- **Agapanthus Hum and the Eyeglasses** by Joy Cowley
- **Winnie Flies Again** by Korkey Paul and Valerie Thomas
- **Magenta Gets Glasses!** by Deborah Reber (Blues Clues)
- **The Patch** by Justina Chen Headley (especially good for kids who need patches!)
- **Honey Bunny's Honey Bear** by Marilyn Sadler
- **Glasses, Glasses Oh What Do I See?** by Karen Smith Stair
- **Luna and the Big Blur: A Story for Children Who Wear Glasses** by Shirley Day
- **The Good Luck Glasses** by Sara London
- **Blueberry Eyes** by Monica Driscoll Beatty
- **All Children have Different Eyes** by Edie A Glaser, Maria R Burgio, and Doina Paraschiv
- **I Really Absolutely Must Have Glasses** by Bridget Hurst
- **The goody good glasses** by John Trauscht and Michael Moore
- **Princess Peepers** by Pam Calvert and Tuesday Mourning
- **I Need Glasses: My Visit to the Optometrist** by Virginia Dooley and Stephanie Roth
- **Read at Home: First Experiences: At the Optician** by Roderick Hunt

Books that have glasses or characters wearing glasses, even though they're not specifically about wearing glasses:

These are books that have nothing to do with wearing glasses, but they have pictures of children wearing glasses, or just pictures of glasses (in the case of some of the word books). It's good to have some books that depict glasses as just a normal thing without making a big deal out of it.

- **My Grandma and I** by P. K. Hallinan
- **My Little People School Bus** (a lift-the-flap playbook) by Doris Tomaselli and Carolyn Bracken
- **Here are my hands** by Bill Martin and John Archambault
- **Toes, Ears, & Nose** by Marion Bauer
- **God Created** by Mark Francisco Bozzuti-Jones
- **Black on White** by Tana Hoban