



# Different Like Me: My Book of Autism Heroes

*Jennifer Elder*

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## **Different Like Me: My Book of Autism Heroes Jennifer Elder**

Different Like Me introduces children aged 8 to 12 years to famous, inspirational figures from the world of science, art, math, literature, philosophy and comedy.

Eight-year-old Quinn, a young boy with Asperger's Syndrome, tells young readers about the achievements and characteristics of his autism heroes, from Albert Einstein, Dian Fossey and Wassily Kandinsky to Lewis Carroll, Benjamin Banneker and Julia Bowman Robinson, among others. All excel in different fields, but are united by the fact that they often found it difficult to fit in-just like Quinn.

Fully illustrated in colour and written in child-friendly language, this book will be a wonderful resource for children, particularly children with autism, their parents, teachers, carers and siblings.

## **Different Like Me: My Book of Autism Heroes Details**

Date : Published December 16th 2005 by Jessica Kingsley Publishers (first published November 30th 2005)

ISBN : 9781843108153

Author : Jennifer Elder

Format : Hardcover 48 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Childrens, Parenting

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# **From Reader Review Different Like Me: My Book of Autism Heroes for online ebook**

## **Christine (AR) says**

Wonderful. We've always told our oldest (who explained four-dimensional-space to me on his way to kindergarten one day) that his ASD is a gift in so many ways, and reading about all of these brilliant, creative people who most likely had Asperger's Syndrome just re-inforces it. Or as my husband said, after we read a few sections out loud, "Hey. I want Asperger's, too."

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## **Julie says**

Checked this out for my 9 year old who says there is no one else who is like her in the entire world and that she will never fit in. It's important to note that the book does not say anywhere that the famous people here have autism (except for Temple Grandin who has an actual diagnosis). Instead, these personalities are presented as quirky folks who just didn't fit in but were or are amazing in their areas of interest and talent. My daughter likes it so far and has told me that she feels better after reading the first few entries.

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## **Mathew says**

I enjoyed the short bios and the paintings quite a bit. Not amazing . . . but great for the intended audience.

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## **Judi says**

I know this is a childrens book but I didn't know all of these people had forms of Autism or Aspergers. Fascinating!

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## **Mia Kim says**

"Different Like Me: My Book of Autism Heroes" by Jennifer Elder is about a boy named Quin with autism who discusses a bunch of famous people like Albert Einstein and Isaac Newton who might have had autism. This book is made up of a bunch of biographies each about a different person. My mom recommended this book to me because she saw it at the library and she works for a mental healthcare company. I rated this book 4 stars and no less or more because although I liked how I got to learn about tons of different people who used their talents to become stars in history, I have read better biographies. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes to read biography books.

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## **Terri Skipworth says**

Title: Elder, J. (2005). Different like me: My book of autism heroes. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishing.

Citation by: Terri Skipworth

Type of Reference: Bibliography

Call number: 618.92 Eld

Grade level: Elementary

### **Content/Scope:**

This book is written from the perspective of a young boy with Asperger's Syndrome. He tells about his famous heroes with autism including- Albert Einstein, Dian Fossey, Lewis Carroll and others. This book is written for children ages 8-12 years old. It contains 48 pages of text and illustrations.

### **Accuracy/Authority/Bias:**

Jessica Kingsley Publishers is an independent publishing company that states their mission is to publish books that make a difference. They are known for their books on Autism, social work and art therapies.

### **Arrangement/Presentation:**

This book is a hardcover bibliography of various famous persons with autism. It is written from the perspective of a young boy with Asperger's Syndrome. It contains 48 pages of text and illustrations.

### **Relation to other works:**

This is a unique resource for children with autism that is written about famous people in history that more than likely had autism themselves. This book will go a long way to allow students with autism to not feel so different from others and to allow them to feel good about the things that make them special.

### **Accessibility/Diversity:**

This book is a great resource for students with Autism. This book will allow them to read the biography of various persons with Autism. The compilation is a great way for a young person to feel like even if they feel different, they can accomplish great things.

Cost: 15.26

Review: Crainer, B. (2012). A review of different like me: A book of autism heroes, retrieved from: <http://www.examiner.com/review/a-revi....>

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## **Elyse Salpeter says**

This is hands down a great book and one of the only ones out there that showcases famous/talented people with autism or asperger's but presents it to children on the spectrum so they can "see themselves" in these people. I actually used this book to discuss autism to my son who has Asperger's and used the book to help

him understand his condition - that there is nothing wrong with him at all, but just our brains are all wired differently and look at all the amazing things these people, and he, can do. Told through the eyes of a little boy on the spectrum, it's very relateable and I recommend it highly!

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### **Bec says**

My 8 year old loved this book. The day it arrived he sat a read it cover to cover and think everyone should read it so they understand him

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### **Jessica says**

Non fiction book told by a little boy who is autistic - tells the story of different famous people in history who were either autistic (Temple Grandin), or did things differently. Great book for younger readers (Juvenile?) who are trying to understand why they are different and need examples or role models.

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### **Michelle Hall says**

Let me tell you about the day I received this in the mail from B&N. I had ordered it after seeing it very briefly in the book store... I didn't look at it originally long enough to see that there is a frame story, delivered by a little boy, 8 years old. His name is Quinn, and he's diagnosed with high functioning autism.

At the time I received the book, I didn't know about the narrator. I opened the book, to read the introduction by 'Quinn.' He introduced himself, explained that he doesn't always think like other kids, and that his doctor tells him he has autism.

I burst into tears. I have a child, diagnosed with PDD-NOS -- a form of high functioning autism. My child is Quinn. I'm serious. Not that he's just like the Quinn in the book, but he is actually named Quinn, and he is high-functioning autistic. I bawled like a baby. Then I read this book cover to cover, sitting on my kitchen chair.

It gave me so much perspective. Mondrian's cubist paintings, the ones all my life I didn't understand, suddenly made perfect sense in the light of an autistic mind. I can, as a direct result of this book, and my desperate attempts to understand my child, see the world in a different light. I encourage any parent, or friend, of a child who falls somewhere on the spectrum to take a look at this book, to see what little bits of the world it opens to them.

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### **Pamela Conley says**

What a lovely and inspiring book for kids on the spectrum. My 5th grade son found it on a good reads search of books about autism. It is a series of mini biographies of men and women who are guessed to be or have been clearly delineated as being on the spectrum with a discussion of each person's major accomplishments. My son and I would read one biography a night. My son really liked this book and I found it well structured

for the younger target audience without being childish or sappy. This is an excellent book for any child age 6 to 14 (I would guess the reading level is probably 3rd to 4th grade) who is looking for positive images about people on the spectrum.

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### **A says**

I really liked this book but was hoping there was more information on why the author believed these people had autism. Still I enjoyed learning about the different people in this book.

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### **Tess Robar says**

This book is narrated by an eight-year-old boy named Quinn who has Asperger's Syndrome. Quinn tells us all about his autism heroes such as Albert Einstein, Dian Fossey, Wassily Kandinsky and many more. He describes their characteristics as well as their achievements. He also mentions that at one point they all found it hard for them to fit in, which is how Quinn feels now.

I gave this book four stars because it shows that just because you have a disability, doesn't mean you cannot be successful. I think this is very important for kids with disabilities to know and understand.

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### **Dee says**

I thought this book was good. It was given to us when we found out both of our children had autism. It was good to read about the famous people with autism, some on whom I knew had autism, others I didn't.

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### **Simona M says**

It is possible that a few of them have Asperger Syndrome, a mild form of autism where the person has a high IQ but deficient social skills, among other things. So it's not about a classic autism. Anyway, just because they were solitary people, with a social anxiety disorder or with an introversion personality doesn't mean they had any form of autism.

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