

TITLE: Anything But Typical

AUTHOR: Nora Raleigh Baskin

CATEGORY/GENRE: Realistic fiction

SERIES: No

AWARDS: 2010 ALA Schneider Family Book Award

SIMILAR BOOKS BY OTHER AUTHORS: *Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper; *Rules* by Cynthia Lord; *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio; *Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko; *Team Players* by Mike Lupica; *How to Speak Dolphin* by Ginny Rorby

AVAILABLE: Book - STC; Book -Libby; Ebook study guide - Hoopla; Book and Book on CD - other libraries

ABOUT THIS BOOK: Jason is a twelve-year old boy with autism. He has accepted that fact, but that doesn't change the daily struggles and how things always seem to go wrong. He knows through his therapy sessions that he is supposed to "act" a certain way, but the challenges of his developmental disorder sometimes cause him to do things that draw attention to himself or cause him to act in unacceptable ways. It is difficult to have friends when you don't always have control of your behavior, so Jason turns to something he is good at. While Jason has trouble articulating his thoughts verbally, expressing himself through story writing is much easier. He posts his stories to an online website and through it he meets Rebecca. She tells him how much she enjoys his stories and he is somewhat comfortable talking to her online. He likes the idea of having a friend, but then he learns they will both be attending the Storyboard Convention. A feeling of dread comes over Jason because he knows what will happen when Rebecca sees his autism and not him . . . the same thing he has dealt with most of his life.

YOU MIGHT LIKE THIS BOOK IF... you have ever struggled with feelings of not being accepted for who you are or have dealt with bullying. This book shows you that you should continue to be true to yourself and to do things that make you happy. By reading this book you will gain an insight into the mind of someone with autism and find that we are all the same on the inside and have to deal with our own particular struggles. You might find you can be courageous, like Jason, as you deal with your feelings of not fitting in sometimes.