

Sam Houston State University

SHSU Common Reader

Annual Book Reveal

2022-2023

Scholarly Discussions | Complex Issues

#shsucommonreader



SHSU Common Reader Mission

- Create a shared academic/intellectual experience
- Facilitate a campus-wide cross-disciplinary conversation
- Enhance the community with students, faculty, and staff

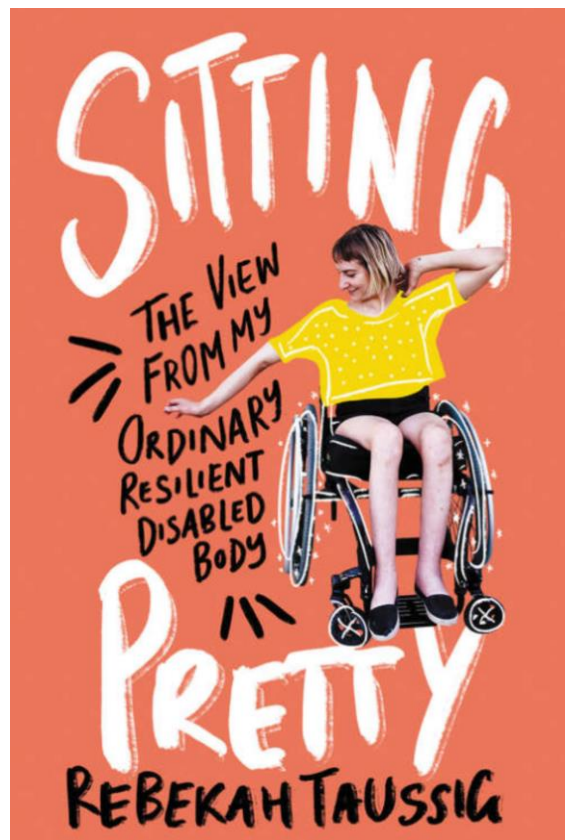


Overview

- Introduction
- Curriculum infusion examples of book themes
- Inspire co-created shared intellectual experiences
- Initiate co-curricular partnerships



Introduction



A memoir-in-essays from disability advocate and creator of the Instagram account @sitting_pretty.

Rebekah Taussig, processing a lifetime of memories to paint a beautiful, nuanced portrait of a body that looks and moves differently than most.

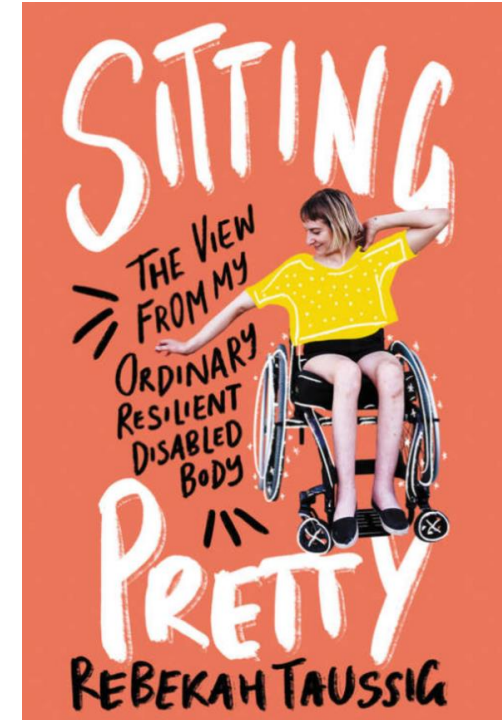


Curriculum Guide Examples

- Dr. Rebekah Taussig, Author, *Sitting Pretty*
- Mrs. Kendall Gragert, Academic Success Center
- Dr. Amber Godwin, College of Education
- Dr. Mary Funck, College of Business
- Dr. Bart Stykes, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- Dr. Christine Cardinal, College of Health Sciences



Dr. Rebekah Taussig



Curriculum Infusion
Dr. Rebekah Taussig, @sitting_pretty



Introduction to Literary Nonfiction

Curriculum Infusion: Kendall Gragert
Academic Success Center



Introduction to Literary Nonfiction

Required Reading:

Preface of *Sitting Pretty*

Materials Required:

Student journals, Highlighters, Devices (optional), Copy of the “Preface” with wide margins

Lesson Brief:

- For the warm-up, students will define Literary Nonfiction in writing in their student journals and have time to look up examples of Literary Nonfiction titles.
- After the warm-up, discuss the definition together, note examples of Literary nonfiction, and talk about what makes Literary Nonfiction more engaging to read.
- Then, as a class, read the preface of *Sitting Pretty* once through together.
- After reading it through together, students will take some time to individually re-read the preface and highlight sentences where the author’s voice is evident.
- Next, students will annotate in the margins why the author’s voice is evident in those sections – what about it made the writing literary.
- Lastly, students will be asked to reflect on how the author’s voice contributes to the genre of writing and what makes it more engaging than other genres of nonfiction in their journals.

Curriculum Infusion: Kendall Gragert
Academic Success Center



Exploring Ableism and Empowerment

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Amber Godwin
College of Education



Exploring Ableism and Empowerment

- First, watch the TED talk by Taussig and listen to Episode 23 of the French (and English) Duolingo Podcast called “La course au sommet de la tour Eiffel”
- Next, read the text *Sitting Pretty* looking for examples of Taussig’s definition of ableism and examples of her own empowerment.
- Now, explore different portrayals of visible or not-visible disability in film or other forms of art/literature. Consider ways in which the visible or not visibly disabled character experiences ableism and empowerment.
- Finally, write a narrative comparing the experiences of ableism and empowerment seen in the portrayals you saw expressed in media versus what Taussig expresses in her work. Conclude your work by describing how knowledge of ableism and empowerment will impact your career as a teacher.

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Amber Godwin
College of Education



Meaningful Contributions

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Mary Funck
College of Business Administration





These two items have something in common.

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Mary Funck
College of Business Administration



What Do They Have in Common?

To start with

Both products were developed from items that we viewed as
'misfits' or 'of lower quality / value'

Yet

Both items generated substantial value for their respective
firms .. Economic value added

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Mary Funck
College of Business Administration



Misfit Toys?



An airplane that
can't fly.

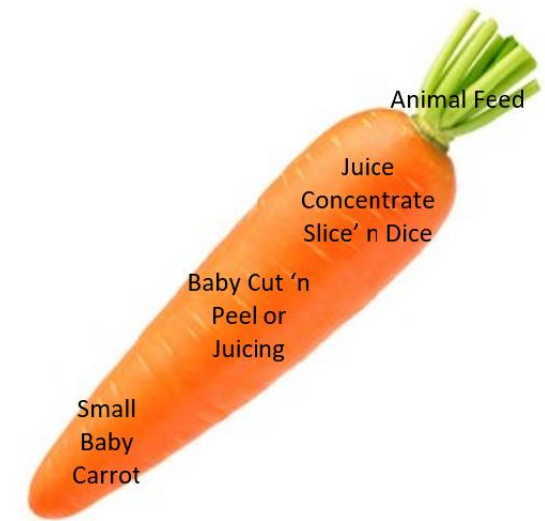
A depressed dolly.

A train with square
wheels on his
caboose.

A spotted elephant.

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Mary Funck
College of Business Administration

Baby Carrots



🥕 Baby carrots were invented by a California carrot farmer,

🥕 Mike Yurosek in the early 1980s


🥕 Yurosek found that many of his carrots were not saleable because they were “ugly” — they weren't the size or shape that could be sold at the grocery store.


🥕 Instead of tossing these “ugly” carrots, he used an industrial bean cutter to shape them into what are now called “baby carrots.”

🥕 The success of baby carrots was overwhelming. By 1987, carrot consumption had increased by 30 percent. Today, baby carrots consist of 70 percent of total carrot sales.

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Mary Funk
College of Business Administration

Post-it Note


 In 1968, Spencer Silver, a scientist at 3M, was working to create a strong adhesive. Accidentally, he developed a new material that was light enough to easily remove and peel apart.

 He spent five years meeting with others at 3M, trying to find someone who could recognize the unique capabilities of his invention and create a new product with it.



Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Mary Funck
College of Business Administration

Post-it Note

 In 1980, Post-it Note was made available to customers in U.S. stores. It became hugely popular. The Post-it Note team was awarded the internal 3M Golden Step Award in 1981 and 1982 for their development of a profitable product that generated significant new sales. In 1981, they were also awarded 3M's Outstanding New Product Award.



Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Mary Funck
College of Business Administration



Curriculum Activities

- In business, we focus on quantifiable impacts on firm financial statement
- Calculate metrics (financial ratios) and produce graphics
- Interpret output (for non-business majors)
- Further investigate impactful and influential individuals with visible disabilities
 - Individual or group
 - Oral discussions or written submissions
 - Poster Boards

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Mary Funck
College of Business Administration





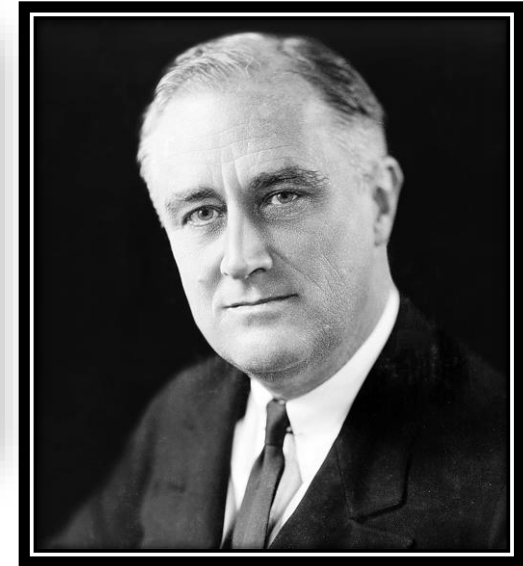
Marlee Matlin
ACTOR



Stephen Hawking
SCIENCE



Stevie Wonder
MUSIC



Franklin D. Roosevelt
POLITICS



Greg Abbott
POLITICS



Rosa May Billinghurst
ACTIVIST



John Hockenberry
JOURNALIST

Sociology in Action: Data Collection Equity and Accessibility at SHSU

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Bart Stykes
College of Humanities and Social Sciences



Sociology in Action: Data Collection

Required Reading:

Sitting Pretty What's the problem? (pp. 1-19); Sociology in Action (Ch. 3: Using Research Methods)

Lesson Brief: Equity and Accessibility at SHSU

This is the first in a series of scaffolded assignments (or in-class active learning exercises) that target:

- the research process in the social sciences,
- successful dissemination of findings, and
- engagement in public sociology.

Over the course of the semester, students will engage with the SHSU Common Reader through a project tentatively titled, "Equity and Accessibility at SHSU."

- First, students must develop and defend a research design to effectively answer two research questions.
 - How accessible is SHSU's campus?
 - How could SHSU be made a more accessible campus to a wider variety of students?

College of Health Sciences

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Christine Cardinal
College of Health Sciences



REMEMBER,
NOT EVERY
DISABILITY IS
APPARENT



WE'RE ALL IN



FOR
INCLUSION.



Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Christine Cardinal
College of Health Sciences
Interim Assistant Dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Assistant Professor, Department of Population Health

Annie Elainey

Casual Ableist Language (3:23)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1rrSXkFqGE&feature=youtu.be>

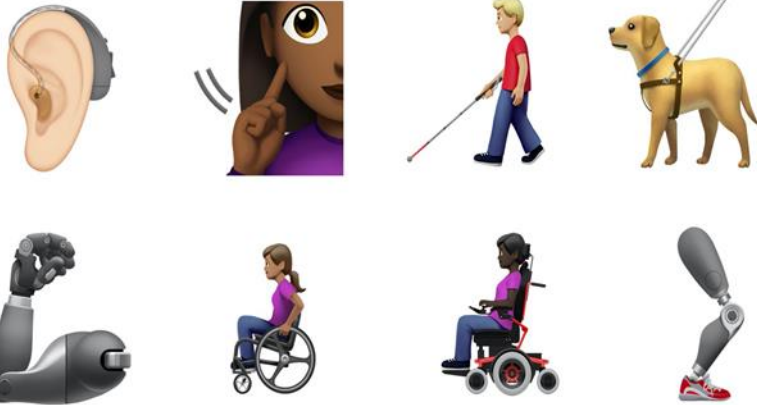


Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Christine Cardinal
College of Health Sciences



Assignment Appetizer

Think, Pair, Share: How did ableism and bias show up in Rebekah's story, and how does that compare to your own lived experience?



Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Christine Cardinal
College of Health Sciences

Social Media Post Examples Related To Ableism

Your intention to be helpful doesn't negate the harm you cause. #ableism #accessibility #disabled

11:53 AM · 3/31/22 · Twitter for iPhone



Ableism Is... (a form of) Discrimination.

- The false idea that disabled people are by default, inferior.
- When in truth disability is just another way for a mind and/or body to be.

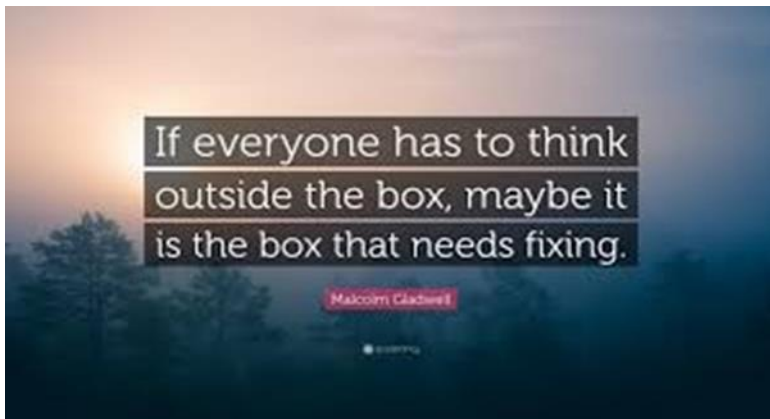


Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Christine Cardinal
College of Health Sciences

How Do We Define Health?

“Health Is Not Attained Through Contorting Yourself To Fit Into Something That Is Impossible To Ever Arrive At.”

-Rebekah Taussig



Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Christine Cardinal
College of Health Sciences

Assignment: The Main Course

- Partner up and read the article (or have them read it before class), Disabled individuals and structural trauma: Implications for mental health providers, by Drs. Vinson and Kamara.
 - This article could have been titled implications for health care organizations or educators. It has valuable information in it for us all.
- Then, write a more inclusive definition of health in the form of a social media post; be creative!
- Depending on the location and class size, share a few or all the posts on Blackboard or in your class's preferred social media platform and tag them, #SHSUHealthPolicy6365.
- Then, see which one gets the most likes/votes, and consider offering an award.

Curriculum Infusion: Dr. Christine Cardinal
College of Health Sciences



A Bearkat Student Story



Broderick Nixon

A Bearkat Student Story



Video



Library Resources



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SHSU Library / Research Guides / University-Wide / SHSU Common Reader 2022: Sitting Pretty / About the Author

SHSU Common Reader 2022: Sitting Pretty

Resource Guide for the 2022-23 SHSU Campus Common Reader: Sitting Pretty by Rebekah Taussig

Homepage

About the Author

Further Reading

About the ADA

Past Common Reader Books

Also By the Author

- **My Pandemic Baby Is Pulling Us Out of Our Cozy Cave. But How Will the World See a Disabled Mother Like Me?**
- **The Fluidity of Care**
Writer Rebekah Taussig explores how caregiving is both a personal and communal experience in this powerful response to Kyla Harris and Lou Macnamara's It's Personal.
- **A Partner With Cancer, a New Baby and a Pandemic: How I Learned to Live in a Tangle of Joy and Pain**
- **I've Been Paralyzed Since I Was 3. Here's Why Kindness Toward Disabled People Is More Complicated Than You Think**
- **I Called Mine Beautiful**
2016 Editors' Award in Creative Nonfiction—Winner

Interviews with Rebekah



About the Author



REBEKAH TAUSSIG, PH.D. is a Kansas City writer and teacher with her doctorate in Creative Nonfiction and Disability Studies. She has led workshops and presentations at the University of Michigan, University of Kansas, and Davidson College

on disability representation, identity, and community. She also runs the Instagram platform @sitting_pretty where she crafts "mini-memoirs" to contribute nuance to the collective narratives being told about disability in our culture. She lives in a tiny, old house with her fussy family of tender-hearted snugglers.

To learn more about Rebekah, visit her website: <https://rebeekhtaussig.com/>



sitting_pretty
Rebekah (she/her)

55.8k followers · 293 posts



View full profile on Instagram

Library Resources



NEWTON GRESHAM LIBRARY
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY



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SHSU Common Reader 2022: Sitting Pretty

Resource Guide for the 2022-23 SHSU Campus Common Reader: Sitting Pretty by Rebekah Taussig

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Past Common Reader Books

Get Involved

- Contests & Scholarships
Critical Thinking through
Deliberative Dialog opportunities for
students & faculty.
- SHSU Campus Activities

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About The Book



Sitting Pretty: The View from my Ordinary Resilient Disabled Body by Rebekah Taussig
ISBN: 9780062936806

A memoir-in-essays from disability advocate and creator of the Instagram account @sitting_pretty Rebekah Taussig, processing a lifetime of memories to paint a beautiful, nuanced portrait of a body that looks and moves differently than most.

Growing up as a paralyzed girl during the 90s and early 2000s, Rebekah Taussig only saw disability depicted as something monstrous (*The Hunchback of Notre Dame*), inspirational (Helen Keller), or angelic (*Forrest Gump*). None of this felt right, and as she got older, she longed for more stories that allowed disability to be complex and ordinary, uncomfortable and fine, painful and fulfilling. Writing about the rhythms and textures of what it means to live in a body that doesn't fit, Rebekah reflects on everything from the complications of kindness and charity, living both independently and dependently, experiencing intimacy, and how the pervasiveness of ableism in our everyday media directly translates to everyday life.

Disability affects all of us, directly or indirectly, at one point or another. By exploring this truth in poignant and lyrical essays, Taussig illustrates the need for more stories and more voices to understand the diversity of humanity. *Sitting Pretty* challenges us as a society to be patient and vigilant, practical and imaginative, kind and relentless, as we set to work to write an entirely different story.

About the Common Reader Program

The SHSU Common Reader program provides all interested SHSU students with the annually selected book. First-year students receive their copy as a summer reading assignment during orientation sessions. Faculty and staff develop and present scholarly dialogues about complex subjects through coursework and events, including the annual Essay Contest.

The mission of the SHSU Common Reading Program is to create a shared academic/intellectual experience, facilitate a campus-wide cross-disciplinary conversation, and enhance the community with students, faculty, and staff.

Reviews

Kirkus Reviews (Starred Review)

"A fierce and fabulous revision to entrenched ableist scripts."

"Introducing many key themes of disability studies throughout the narrative, the author pushes for nuanced awareness and understanding of fluid rather than fixed needs, essential for a more effective intersectional approach to social solutions. Taussig goes beyond empty inspirational jargon, forcing readers to consider the value of the real-world improvements that can emerge from centering underrepresented voices. An engaging, up-close view of the need for structural change regarding disabilities in this country, the text is a solid combination of theory and personal experience."

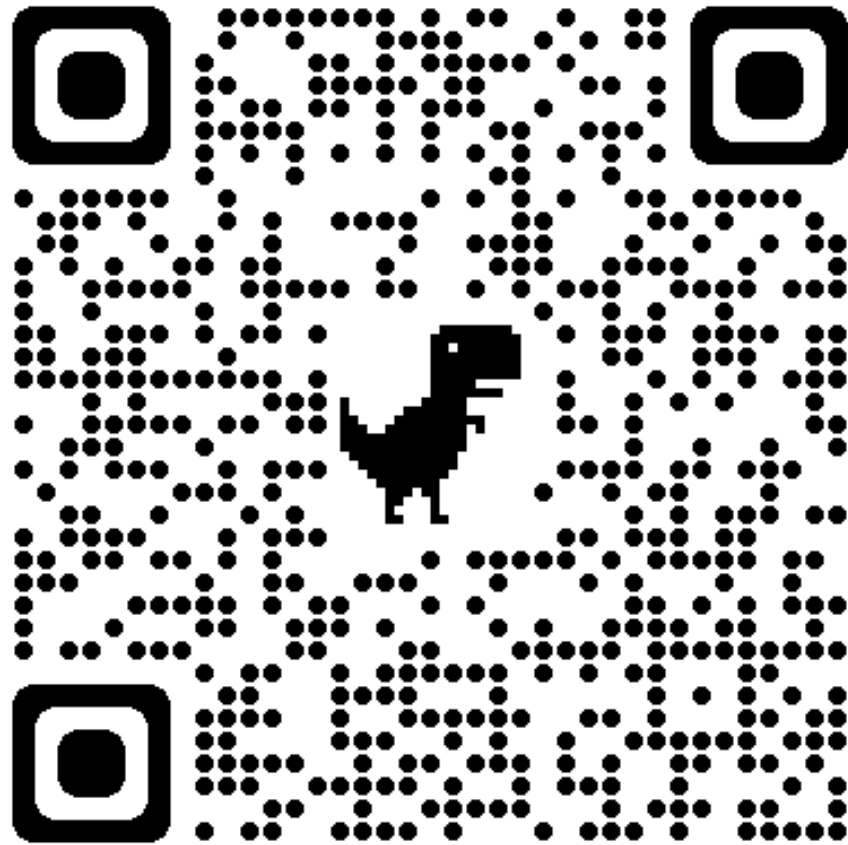
Publishers Weekly Book Review

"Taussig debuts with a pull-no-punches memoir about life in a wheelchair. She insists up front that she doesn't speak for everyone with a disability . . . and provides a frank look into her life with "a body that doesn't work," one that she's lived in since surviving an aggressive cancer as a 14-month-old. Taussig's refreshing, matter-of-fact tone makes it clear that she's not asking anyone to feel sorry for her; rather, she's asking for just the opposite—to not be defined by her wheelchair. *Her smart and witty observations about living with disabilities will be enlightening and eye-opening for readers.*"

Booklist Book Review

"Treatment for childhood cancer led to paralysis at age three, but that didn't stop Taussig. She adapted. Nonetheless, she grew up in a world that didn't see her or welcome her or represent her. It was and is a struggle. She describes how a disabled person navigates things nondisabled people take in stride: dating, marriage, the workplace. The epilogue's annotated list of resources includes "very cool people" who also happen to be disabled, books, television shows, and Instagram hashtags. An

Library Resources



Library Resources

SHSU Library > Research Guides > University-Wide > SHSU Common Reader 2022: Sitting Pretty > Homepage

<https://shsulibraryguides.org/CommonReader22>



Co-Curriculum Fall 2022 Events

Tuesday, November 15	Wednesday, November 16	Thursday, November 17
<p>8:00 am Faculty Breakfast with Dr. Taussig</p> <p>11:00 am Disability Awareness Workshop Dr. Taussig</p> <p>2:00 pm Writing Workshop Dr. Taussig</p> <p>4:00 pm Keynote, Meet and Greet with Book Signing</p>	<p>11:00 am Author's Lunch with Nominated Students</p> <p>1:00 pm Author's Tour of campus student projects</p> <p>6:00 pm 7th Annual Mass Communication Common Reader Film Festival and Scholarship Event</p>	<p>4:00 pm Biannual Critical Thinking Through Deliberative Dialogues Scholarship Event</p>



Closing

" the goal is to be
seen, asked, heard,
believed, valued as
we are. "

-Rebekah Taussig .



Thank you!

SHSU Common Reader

Events and Program Coordinator:

Shantal Brissette

commonreader@shsu.edu



References

- <https://www.foodnetwork.com/healthyeats/2016/05/the-truth-about-baby-carrots>
- <http://www.carrotmuseum.co.uk/babycarrot.html>
- <https://www.mnopedia.org/thing/post-it-notes#:~:text=In%201968%2C%20Spencer%20Silver%2C%20a,what%20that%20use%20could%20be.>
- <https://themighty.com/2020/07/influential-people-with-disabilities/>

