

Rescue and Jessica: A Life Changing Friendship

By: Jessica Kensky and Patrick Downes

Illustrated: Scott Magoon

Synopsis: Jessica is severely injured in the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013. At the same time, a young Labrador named Rescue is trying to figure a new path forward after failing to make it as a guide dog. Together, they emphasize each other's strengths and make a better life together.

Suggested Reading Date:

- During Disability Awareness Month in October.
- Around the time of the Boston Marathon (usually, the third Monday in April)
- Aligned PACE Characteristics: Courage (May), Caring (December)

Activity Descriptions:

- Watch this video featuring the real life Rescue, Jessica, and co-author Patrick: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ju1onrlkK4w>
- Talk about the history of kids with disabilities in our schools, and how inclusion and mainstreaming helped kids succeed.
- Research other uses of guide and support animals in the school and workplace; have the students give a Google slide presentation with what they learned.

Related Websites:

- Scott Magoon's Website: <https://scottmagoon.com/>
- Suggested Activities from Candlewick Press, the Publisher: https://candlewick.com/book_files/0763696048.btg.1.pdf
- NEADS World Class Service Dogs, the kennel that trained Rescue: <https://neads.org/>
- The Schneider Family Book Award: <http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/schneider-family-book-award>

Text to Text Connections:

The Remember Balloons by Jesse Oliveros
A Boy and a Jaguar by Alan Rabinowitz
El Deafo by Cece Bell

Created By: Ryan Grant