



2008

### Autism and Me: Sibling Stories

Alison Canar

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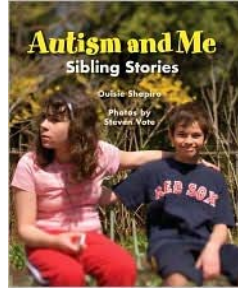
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Shapiro, Ouisie. *Autism and Me: Sibling Stories*. Illustrated by Steven Vote. Albert Whitman, 2009. ISBN 9780807504871. \$16.99. 30 p.

Reviewer: Alison Canar

Reading Level: Preschool, Primary, Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Informational books;

Subject: Autistic children--Juvenile literature; Autistic children--Family relationships--Juvenile literature; Brothers and sisters of people with disabilities--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Autism is something most children do not understand, but the kids in this book are experts. *Autism and Me* consists of fourteen interviews with children and adolescents who have an autistic sibling. They share what they have learned from living with a family member who is different from other kids. Although they each have some frustrations with their siblings' challenges, they all share a special, loving bond that gives them patience. The siblings in these stories share the same diagnosis, but they are each individuals with their own unique characteristics.

Each interview is featured on a two-page spread, with photos accompanying their written story, of the siblings enjoying time together. Readers are able to see many different perspectives on autism through this book. Some more mature narrators help the reader understand their siblings' situation. There are also some younger narrators who are still coming to terms with the condition themselves. *Autism and Me* could be a useful book for any family with special needs. It can help those with challenges to know they are not alone, as well as help others better understand autism and be more sensitive to those around them.

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