

Books

There are several books available that look at the issues surrounding lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth. There are also some great novels aimed at youth that include lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender characters and storylines. The following is a list of books that can be used in and out of the classroom.

General Books for and about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Youth

Bass, Ellen and Kate Kaufman (1996). *Free Your Mind: The Book for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Youth and their Allies*. Harper Perennial. New York.

Due, Linnea (1995). *Joining the Tribe: Growing Up Gay and Lesbian in the '90s*. Anchor Books, Double Day. New York.

Gray, Mary L (1999). *In Your Face: Stories from the Lives of Queer Youth*. Hawthorn Press Inc. Harrington Park Press.

Herdt, Gilbert and Andrew Boxer (1996). *Children of Horizons: How gay and lesbian teens are leading a new way out of the closet*. Beacon Press. Boston.

Heron, Ann (ed) (1994). *Two Teenagers in 20: Writings by Gay and Lesbian Youth*. Alyson Books. London. New York.

Nycum, Benjie (2000). *The XY Survival Guide: Everything You Need to Know About Being Young and Gay*. Toronto: XY Publishing.

Owens, Robert E Jr (1998). *Queer Kids: The Challenges and Promise for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth*. Harrington Park Press. New York and London.

Stewart, Gail B (1997). *The Other America: Gay and Lesbian Youth*. Lucent Books. San Diego.

LGBTQ related Picture Books for children:

http://etd.fcla.edu/CF/CFH0003852/Mollentze_Shanine_2011May_ElementaryEducation.pdf

5 suggestions for LGBTQ story books for grade 2-3:

Jiménez, Karleen P

Are You a Boy or a Girl? (2000) ISBN: 978-1896781143

K-Grade 2

A book to open the conversation about what it means to be a boy or a girl and the many possibilities of expressing oneself.

De Haan, Linda & Stern Nijland

King and King (2002) ISBN: 978-1582460611

K-Grade 2

A queen declares that her son, the prince, must be married by summer's end. Although princesses come from far and wide, the prince finds his match when he first lays his eyes on another prince. They marry and live happily ever after. One of the most frequently banned or challenged books in North America.

Richardson, Justin & Peter Parnell

And Tango Makes Three (2005) ISBN: 978-0689878459

K-Grade 3

The true story of Roy and Silo, two male penguins in the Central Park Zoo, who make a family by sitting on an abandoned egg until it hatches. One of the most frequently challenged and banned books in North America.

My Princess Boy

by Cheryl Kilodavis, illustrated by Suzanne DeSimone

Inspired by the author's son, this book is about a loving, supportive family and their Princess Boy who likes pretty, pink, sparkly, girly things. Sometimes people laugh at and make fun of the Princess Boy and it hurts his feelings. Stressing acceptance, the book concludes by asking, "If you see a Princess Boy, will you laugh at him, call him a name, play with him, like him for who he is?" These are great questions to prompt a conversation about acceptance with young readers.

Jacob's New Dress

by Sarah and Ian Hoffman, illustrated by Chris Case

Jacob loves wearing dresses and pretending he's a princess at school, but a male classmate disapproves and says boys can't wear dresses. Thank goodness for Emily, Jacob's friend who always defends and supports him and demonstrates the power of an ally. This heartwarming story shows that there are all sorts of ways to be a boy and conveys the importance of support from friends and family. It also speaks to the unique challenges faced by boys who don't identify with traditional gender roles.

Books for Educators

Bass, Ellen and Kate Kaufman (1996). *Free Your Mind: The Book for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Youth and their Allies*. Harper Perennial. New York.

Besner, Hilda F and Charlotte J Spungin (1995). *Gay and Lesbian Students: Understanding Their Needs*. Taylor and Francis. Washington DC.

Harbeck, Karen M (1992). *Coming out of the Classroom Closet: Gay and Lesbian Students, Teachers and Curricula*. Harrington Park Press. New York and London.

Jennings, Kevin (ed) (1994). *One Teacher In 10: Gay and lesbian educators tell their stories*. Alyson Publication Inc. Boston.

Lipkin, Arthur (1999). *Understanding Homosexuality, Changing Schools*. Westview Press. Colorado

McNinch, James & Cronin, M. (eds) (2004). *I Could Not Speak My Heart: Education and Social Justice for Gay and Lesbian Youth*. Regina: University of Regina

Perrotti, J. & Westheimer, K. (2001). *When the Drama Club is not Enough: Lessons from the Safe Schools Program for Gay and Lesbian Students*. Boston: Beacon Press

Pinar, William (ed) (1998). *Queer Theory in Education*. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. London.

Unks, Gerald (Ed) (1995). *The Gay Teen: Educational Practice and Theory For Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Adolescents*. Routledge. New York and London.

Books for Guidance Counselors

Central Toronto Youth Services (1988). *Often Invisible: Counseling Gay and Lesbian Youth*. Toronto.

D'Augelli, Anthony and Charlotte Patterson (2001). *Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Identities and Youth: Psychological Perspectives*. Oxford University Press.

Hunter, Ski, Coleen Shannon, Jo Knox and James I Martin (1998). *Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youths and Adults: Knowledge for Human Services Practice*. Sage Publications. Thousands Oak. London. Delhi.

Books for Parents

Bernstein, Robert A (1995). *Straight Parents, Gay Children: Inspiring Families to Live Honestly and with Greater Understanding*. Thunder Mouth Press. New York.

Fairchild, Betty and Nancy Hayward (1998). *Now That You Know: A Parents' Guide to Understanding Their Gay and Lesbian Children*. A Harvest Book. San Diego. New York. London.

Griffin, Carolyn Welch (1996). *Beyond Acceptance: Parents of Lesbians and Gays Talk About Their Experiences*. St.Martins Griffin. New York.

Woog, Dan (1999). *Friends and Family: True Stories of Gay America's Straight Allies*. Alyson Books. Los Angeles, New York.

Novels for LGBTQ Youth

There are many novels available with gay, lesbian and bisexual characters or themes. There are few aimed at transgender youth. The following lists are in no way complete but represent a sampling of some of the books available. For more titles check out some websites or look into other novels by some of the listed authors.

Great books for Gay/Bisexual Young Men

Rainbow Boys by Alex Sanchez (2001) New York: Simon & Schuster

Three gay teens battle their principal to start a Gay Straight Alliance, deal with an HIV scare, tackle online dating, struggle with their feelings, and try to make their way in the world.

Rainbow High by Alex Sanchez (2003) New York: Simon & Schuster

The sequel to the popular *Rainbow Boys*, finds four gay teens at Walt Whitman High School dealing with coming out, homophobia, relationships, college scholarships and trying to make it in the world.

Geography Club by Brent Hartinger (2003) New York: Harper Collins

Two boys, one a gay teen and the other a closeted jock form a relationship and a school club called the Geography Club with three other gay teens. The club allows them to talk openly about themselves and support one another, but peer pressure and insecurity forces them to really examine who they are.

Clay's Way: A Novel by Blair Mastbaum (2004) New York: Alyson Publications.

A 15 year old wanna be punk rocker suburban guy falls for a 17 year old surfer who is equally adrift. Clay, the surfer, drags Sam, the rocker, on a tumultuous journey to discover themselves.

The Soccer Field is Empty by Mark A. Roeder (2002) Writer's Club Press.

This is a story about love, loyalty, romance, understanding and prejudice as two high school athletes look for love with one another and encounter a world that isn't quite ready for them.

A Better Place by Mark A. Roeder (2001) Writer's Club Press

What do a high school football star and a poor kid have in common? More than even they know as they come together and find what they need from one another. This is a story of friendship, betrayal and love.

Boy Meets Boy by David Levithan (2003) New York: Knopf Books

A group of gay and straight teens struggle with relationships, friendships, family and other teen problems as they look to each other for support. In this novel, being gay is not the problem, being a teen is.

PINS by Jim Provenzano (1999) Myrmidude Press.

Joey is a high school wrestler who wrestles with his feeling of attraction towards a peer, a strict Catholic upbringing, homophobia, loneliness and ultimately strength as he discovers who he is and what that means to him.

So Hard to Say by Alex Sanchez (2004) New York: Simon & Schuster.

This story focuses on a junior high student who moves to a new school only to be befriended by a girl who has a crush on him. However, he has a crush on another boy. Things come to a head when he discovers her true intentions towards him and is forced to deal with his feelings.

Great Books for Lesbian/Bisexual Young Women

Bermudez Triangle by Maureen Johnson (2004) New York: Razorbill.

Nina, Avery and Mel were inseparable. One summer Nina goes off to Stanford for a summer program and returns to find that Avery and Mel are closer than ever. The friendship becomes fragile as Nina feels on the outside, Avery struggles with confusion, and Mel works to understand her sexuality.

Keeping you a Secret by Julie Anne Peters (2005) USA: Megan Tingley Press.

A young woman, with a good-looking boyfriend, meets an out and proud lesbian classmate. She struggles with her feelings for her and eventually the two begin a relationship. She journeys from coming out to being proud despite the discrimination she faces from her peers, her friends and her mother.

Dare, Truth or Promise by Paula Boock (1999) New York: Houghton Mifflin.

Two young woman, in New Zealand, begin a relationship only to discover the barriers they must face including past betrayals, unsupportive family and friends, and struggles with faith.

Empress of the World by Sara Ryan (2001) New York: Viking.

Nic goes away to a camp for gifted students where she keeps notes in her journal about other campers, their clothes, their habits, their personalities; labeling them

in many different ways. This puts strain on her new relationship with another girl and she realizes that putting a label on herself isn't what she wants.

Kissing Kate by Lauren Myracle (2003) New York: Dutton Books.

16 year old Lissa shares a kiss with her best friend Kate. However, the two react very differently. Kate pulls back and stays away from Lissa. Lissa must deal with her confusion, her feelings and the loss of her friendship. Kate must do the same.

The House You Pass on the Way by Jacqueline Woodson (1997) New York: G P Putnam's Sons.

14 year old Staggerlee comes from an interracial family. She is made fun of because her mother is white. However, that is not the only thing that makes her feel different. Staggerlee thinks she might be gay. One summer her cousin comes to visit and reveals she also thinks she might be gay. Relieved not to be alone the two spend the summer talking and bonding about their identities and futures.

The Necessary Hunger by Nina Revoyr (1998) New York: St. Martin's Press.

Nancy is a star basketball player who falls for fellow athlete Raina. When Nancy's father falls in love with Raina's mother and the two move in together, Nancy's feelings become excruciating. The story deals with adolescent love, race and the tough world of competitive athletics.

Deliver us from Evie by M.E. Kerr (1994) New York: Harper Trophy.

This novel takes place on a small town farm where Evie falls for the daughter of her parent's mortgage owner. Her brother Parr, understanding of Evie's love, has a love of his own, a girl from a fundamentalist family who doesn't approve of 'gayness'. In Parr's frustration and anger he outs Evie to the family and the whole town, forcing everyone to address their feelings and discover their place in the town.

Annie on My Mind by Nancy Garden (1992) USA: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Liza and Annie, from two different high schools, meet at a New York museum and quickly become friends and then lovers. When they are discovered, their lives and the lives of those around them are changed.

Great Novels for Transgender Youth

Luna by Julie Anne Peters (2004) New York: Little, Brown and Company.

This story centers around Regan and her brother Liam, who she knows as her sister, Luna. Luna struggles to be herself in a world that expects her to act according to her assigned gender. Regan supports Luna but deals with her own feelings of embarrassment and insecurity.

Please Don't Kill the Freshman by Zoe Trope (2004) New York: Harper Tempest.

This is a memoir by a 15 year old writer, who isn't transgender, but who talks openly about her relationship with a transgender teen. The memoir is honest and telling and speaks to many teens.