

RESOURCE GUIDE

GRADES K-12

Updated
for 2023

READ WITH PRIDE

EDUCATOR, CAREGIVER, AND ADVOCATE RESOURCES
FOR SUPPORTING **LGBTQIA+** YOUTH AND BOOKS

The
Power
of Story

Building Equitable
Bookshelves

 SCHOLASTIC

LETTER TO EDUCATORS, CAREGIVERS & ADVOCATES

Thank you for picking up this guide! Whether you're part of the LGBTQIA+ community, you practice allyship, or you're curious to learn more but aren't sure where to start, this guide is for you.

A note on language: LGBTQIA+ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual, Aromantic, and more identities including pansexual, two-spirit, nonbinary, and genderqueer. While the word "queer" was historically used pejoratively and as a slur against members of the LGBTQIA+ community, many people today use it as an umbrella term to refer to the breadth of LGBTQIA+ identities and experiences (as well as to describe a more fluid and expansive individual identity). This guide's use of the word "queer" reflects the contemporary cultural shift towards reclaiming the term. Learn more about terminology in the glossary on pages 8–9 of this guide.

It can be difficult to obtain accurate, up-to-date statistics about the number of young people who identify under the LGBTQIA+ umbrella. However, whether or not they are out to themselves or you, you absolutely know queer children and interact with them in your classrooms, libraries, and communities. As a teacher, librarian, educator, or caregiver, how you interact with all children and teens around queerness matters. What literature you provide them with, and how you talk about both literature and identity, can have an immense, life-changing impact on the young people in your life. Everyone benefits from books with authentic representation of queer identities, whether that representation is a window, mirror, or sliding glass door (Bishop, Rudine Sims. "Windows, mirrors, and sliding glass doors." *Perspectives* 6.3 (1990): ix–xi). Books and literature are never neutral; by engaging with queer literature for children and young adults, you are disrupting the status quo that implies being cisgender, heterosexual, and allosexual are the default. You are showing children an expanded way of thinking and being that validates all children and all people.

If LGBTQIA+ identities are not your own, it might feel intimidating to engage with a range of identities with such vast and ever-changing vocabulary. Make sure to check out both the included glossary and suggested resources for additional perspectives. If you're a queer educator or librarian, it can be both joyful and emotionally exhausting to teach or highlight literature that reflects your experiences. Included are links to professional organizations with affinity groups.

We are experiencing an undeniable, joyous boom of queer literature for children and young adults of all ages, but it can be difficult to stay up to date on the latest quality representation. You'll find suggested resources for finding diverse LGBTQIA+ children's and young adult literature included in this guide. Unfortunately, many communities are experiencing significant pushback to supporting the rights and needs of queer youth and the inclusion of queer literature in classrooms and libraries. If you or anyone you know needs them, make sure to utilize the links to mental health and censorship hotlines included in this guide.

The work you are doing to support queer children and queer books is immeasurable. Thank you for all you do, and take care of yourselves.

WHY IT'S ESSENTIAL TO SUPPORT LGBTQIA+ YOUTH

IDENTITY

- Nearly 10% of teens (ages 13–17) in the United States identify as lesbian, gay, bi, or trans williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/lgbt-youth-pop-us
- There are approximately 3.2 million LGBTQIA+ youth ages 8–18 in the US, and about half (52%) are people of color lgbtmap.org/policy-and-issue-analysis/LGBTQ-youth
- More than 1 in 5 LGBTQIA+ youth describe themselves as something other than gay, lesbian, or bisexual thetrevorproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Trevor-Project-Sexual-Orientation-Research-Brief_September.pdf
- 1 in 4 LGBTQIA+ youth identify outside of the gender binary thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/diversity-of-youth-gender-identity
- Only 50% of youth surveyed who identify as nonbinary also identify as transgender, while an additional 20% are not sure or questioning if they are transgender thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/diversity-of-nonbinary-youth
- 1 in 4 LGBTQIA+ youth use pronouns or pronoun combinations that fall outside of the binary construction of gender thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/pronouns-usage-among-lgbtq-youth
- 35% of Generation Z (those ages 13 to 21 in 2018) know someone who uses gender-neutral pronouns pewresearch.org/social-trends/2019/01/17/generation-z-looks-a-lot-like-millennials-on-key-social-and-political-issues

MENTAL HEALTH

- 73% of LGBTQIA+ youth reported experiencing discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity at least once in their lifetime, and more than half reported experiencing discrimination in the past year thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022
- Half of LGBTQIA+ youth of color reported experiencing discrimination based on their race/ethnicity in the past year, including 67% of Black LGBTQIA+ youth and 60% of Asian/Pacific Islander LGBTQIA+ youth thetrevorproject.org/survey-2021
- LGBTQIA+ youth who reported having at least one accepting adult in their life were 40% less likely to report a suicide attempt in the past year thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/accepting-adults-reduce-suicide-attempts-among-lgbtq-youth
- LGBTQIA+ youth who reported having at least one LGBTQIA+-affirming space had 35% reduced odds of reporting a suicide attempt in the past year thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/lgbtq-gender-affirming-spaces
- Less than 1 in 3 LGBTQIA+ youth surveyed found their home to be LGBTQIA+-affirming thetrevorproject.org/survey-2021
- LGBTQIA+ youth who had high levels of LGBTQIA+ pride had nearly 20% lower odds of attempting suicide in the past year compared to those with lower levels of LGBTQIA+ pride thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/pride-among-lgbtq-youth
- Trans and nonbinary youth whose pronouns are respected by the people they live with attempt suicide at half the rate of those whose aren't thetrevorproject.org/survey-2021
- Trans and nonbinary youth who are able to change their name on legal documents are significantly less likely to attempt suicide thetrevorproject.org/survey-2021
- Nonbinary youth who reported that “no one” respected their pronouns had more than 2.5x the rate of attempting suicide compared to those who reported that “all or most of the people” they know respected their pronouns thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/diversity-of-nonbinary-youth
- 91% of transgender and nonbinary youth said that they have worried about transgender people being denied access to the bathroom due to state or local laws thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022

RECOGNITION & INCLUSION OF LGBTQIA+ BOOKS FOR YOUTH

Books that address LGBTQIA+ topics and themes are receiving increased attention from reviewers and critics, bestseller lists, and regional and national awards that recognize excellence in literature across all genres, themes, and topics. National organizations like Lambda Literary, GLAAD, and the American Library Association have also established awards that specifically recognize exceptional queer representation in literature and media, including the groundbreaking Stonewall Book Award.

In 2013 and 2014, Alaya Dawn Johnson's Brazilian cyberpunk young adult debut, *The Summer Prince*, was a Lambda Literary Award finalist, a Cybils Award winner, an Andre Norton Award nominee, and a National Book Award longlist title.

In addition to recognition on over a dozen "best of" lists and state awards, Bill Konigsberg's *Openly Straight* was a 2014 finalist for both an Amelia Elizabeth Walden Award and a Lambda Literary Award.

In 2016, Alex Gino's groundbreaking debut, *Melissa*, won both a Stonewall Book Award and a Lambda Literary Award, and has since been recognized by over 19 state awards and "best of" lists. In this same year, *The Marvels* by Brian Selznick was a Lambda Literary Award finalist and won an NCTE Notable Children's Books in the Language Arts Award, in addition to being recognized on a dozen "best of" lists.

In 2019, Kacen Callender's debut, *Hurricane Child*, won both a Stonewall Book Award and a Lambda Literary Award. In 2020 and 2021, Callender's second middle-grade novel, *King and the Dragonflies*, won a National Book Award, a Lambda Literary Award, and a Boston Globe-Horn Book Award; it also received a Walter Honor and a Coretta Scott King Honor.

In 2021, Vitor Martins's *Here the Whole Time* and Lucas Rocha's *Where We Go from Here* each won a Global Literature in Libraries Initiatives Translated YA Book Prize and an International Latino Book Awards Medal for Best YA Book in Portuguese. In this same year, Leah Johnson's debut YA rom-com, *You Should See Me in a Crown*, was a Lambda Literary Award finalist, a Stonewall honor book, the inaugural Reese's YA Book Club pick, and the recipient of multiple starred reviews and inclusion on many state and national best-of-the-year lists.

In 2022, Molly Knox Ostertag's YA graphic novel *The Girl from the Sea* was a GLAAD Media Award nominee, and the Netflix television adaptation of Alice Oseman's *New York Times* bestselling graphic novel series, *Heartstopper*, was released to immense popular and critical acclaim.

In 2023, Ryan La Sala's YA horror novel *The Honeys* received YALSA's Odyssey Award, and was also named to YALSA's Best Fiction for Young Adults and Amazing Audiobooks lists alongside Alice Oseman's YA novel *Loveless*. *The Honeys*, *Loveless*, and Kacen Callender's middle-grade novel *Moonflower* were designated as Top Ten titles on ALA's 2023 Rainbow Book List. Lewis Hancox's debut YA graphic novel memoir, *Welcome to St. Hell: My Trans Teen Misadventure*, was designated a Top Ten title on YALSA's Great Graphic Novels for Teens list. Bill Konigsberg's YA historical fiction novel, *Destination Unknown*, was an SCBWI Golden Kite Award finalist.

These are just a few examples of the significant and sustained positive reception of LGBTQIA+ books for children and young adults in recent years, all of which contribute to increased access and awareness of books that reflect the diverse reality of our world. The life-changing impact of affirming representation for LGBTQIA+ youth cannot be overstated, and the scope of these awards and accolades further emphasizes the inherent value of queer representation in books for all readers.

RESOURCES FOR SUPPORTING LGBTQIA+ YOUTH & BOOKS

NATIONAL LGBTQIA+ ORGANIZATIONS

Gender Spectrum | genderspectrum.org

An organization providing programs, trainings, and professional development opportunities for caregivers, educators, and young people.

GLAAD | glaad.org

A media monitoring and advocacy group dedicated to pushing for accurate and authentic LGBTQIA+ representation.

InterACT Advocates for Intersex Youth | interactadvocates.org

A nonprofit dedicated to promoting and supporting the rights of intersex children.

Lambda Legal | lambdalegal.org

A legal advocacy organization dedicated to the complete recognition of civil rights for LGBTQIA+ people and people living with HIV.

National Center for Transgender Equality | transequality.org

A nonprofit working for political and societal acceptance of and support for trans people through advocacy and education.

PFLAG | pflag.org

A nonprofit for parents, caregivers, families, and allies of LGBTQIA+ folks.

Trans Student Educational Resources | transstudent.org

TSER is a youth-led nonprofit for and by trans students.

The Trevor Project | thetrevorproject.org

A nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting LGBTQIA+ young people that includes extensive educational resources.

BOOK-SPECIFIC RESOURCES

Children's Book Council | LGBTQIA+ Book Lists and Resources | cbcbooks.org/readers/reader-resources/lgbtqia-books-and-resources

A collection of book lists and resources that highlight the LGBTQIA+ community and experience for kids of all ages and their caregivers.

Lambda Literary Awards | lambdaliterary.org/awards

The annual Lambda Literary Awards ("Lammys") recognize the best LGBTQIA+ books in dozens of categories, including children's and young adult literature.

LGBTQ Reads | lgbtqreads.com

An ongoing blog and frequently updated bibliography that features comprehensive lists of books broken down by factors like intended audience, genre, and featured identities.

Rainbow Book List | glbtrt.ala.org/rainbowbooks

The American Library Association's Rainbow Round Table curates an annual list of queer children's and young adult books.

Power of Story | scholastic.com/PowerOfStory

Scholastic's Power of Story initiative aims to highlight books featuring groups whose identities and lived experiences have been suppressed and excluded from mainstream narratives, including LGBTQIA+ characters and stories.

Stonewall Book Award | ala.org/rt/rtrt/award/stonewall/honored

The American Library Association's Rainbow Round Table recognizes excellent literature with queer representation with the annual Stonewall Book Awards, including the Mike Morgan and Larry Romans Children's and Young Adult Literature Awards.

ABOUT LGBTQIA+ IDENTITIES

Everyday Feminism | 5 Good Reasons Why the LGBTQIA+ Acronym Shouldn't Include 'Ally' | everydayfeminism.com/2016/08/lgbtqia-shouldnt-include-ally

An article outlining clearly delivered arguments for why the “A” in LGBTQIA+ does not and should not stand for “ally.”

Learning for Justice | Gender and Sexual Identity Resources | learningforjustice.org/topics/gender-sexual-identity

A collection of resources from the organization formerly known as Teaching Tolerance, including articles and webinars.

NBC News | Who's the Q in LGBTQ? Study Shines Light on 'Queer' Identities | nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/who-s-q-lgbtq-study-shines-light-queer-identities-n1121521

An article exploring the data from a recent scientific study regarding demographic characteristics of queer-identified people in the United States.

queer undefined | queerundefined.com

A crowdsourced LGBTQIA+ dictionary.

Refinery29 | Gender Nation Glossary | refinery29.com/en-us/lgbtq-definitions-gender-sexuality-terms

A glossary of gender-related terminology as defined by individuals with those identities, compiled and edited by Refinery29 and GLAAD.

Spectrum News | The Q Word: A Crash Course on 'Queer' | spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/buffalo/news/2021/06/24/the-q-word--a-crash-course-on--queer-

An article contextualizing and defining the contemporary and historical uses and meanings of the word “queer.”

Teen Vogue | Heteronormative Meaning: What Does Heteronormative Mean? Plus, 8 Examples to Know | teenvogue.com/story/heteronormativity-gender-identity-sexual-orientation

A thorough introduction to the concept of heteronormativity, including a definition, historical context, and examples of heteronormative beliefs and systems and their impact in today's world.

Teen Vogue | I'm Intersex, And It's WAY More Common Than You Think | teenvogue.com/story/intersex-video-periods-genital-mutilation-surgery-identity

A series of short video interviews with intersex activists.

Thesaurus.com | Does Traditional Grammar Matter When It Comes to Singular "They" and "Themself"? | thesaurus.com/e/grammar/they-is-a-singular-pronoun

A detailed introduction to they/them pronouns.

The Trevor Project | Guide to Being an Ally to Transgender and Nonbinary Youth | thetrevorproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Guide-to-Being-an-Ally-to-Transgender-and-Nonbinary-Youth.pdf

A thorough and engaging overview of how to be an ally to trans and nonbinary young people.

Washington Post | FAQ: What you need to know about transgender children | washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2021/04/22/transgender-child-sports-treatments

A comprehensive guide to common questions and talking points about trans children.

ADVOCACY RESOURCES

AFSC | Bystander Intervention Principles | afsc.org/bystanderintervention

A succinct guide to the principles of bystander intervention from the American Friends Service Committee.

Conscious Style Guide | consciousstyleguide.com/?utm_source=pocket_mylist

A consistently up-to-date writing style guide for inclusive, conscientious language.

Right To Be | Bystander Intervention Training | righttobe.org/our-training

A selection of online bystander intervention trainings for individuals and organizations.

Simmons University | Anti-Oppression LibGuide | simmons.libguides.com/anti-oppression

An extensive collection of anti-oppression resources, including sections dedicated to anti-queermisia and anti-transmisia.

EDUCATOR AND LIBRARIAN RESOURCES

ALA Rainbow Round Table (RRT) | ala.org/rt/rrt

An affinity group for LGBTQIA+ members of the American Library Association.

CDC | LGBTQ+ Youth Resources | cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth-resources.htm

Compiled with the goal of supporting positive environments for LGBTQIA+ youth, this list from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) includes resources for youth, educators, and families from U.S. government agencies as well as community organizations.

GLSEN | glsen.org

An education nonprofit focused on ending discrimination and bullying toward LGBTQIA+ people in US schools.

GSA Network | gsanetwork.org

An organization connecting genders and sexualities alliances (GSAs) across the United States.

NCTE | Diverse Collections of LGBTQ-Inclusive Children's Literature to Expand Windows and Mirrors for Youth | ncte.org/blog/2019/03/lgbtq-inclusive-childrens-literature

An overview of LGBTQIA+ youth literature themes and topics for collection development.

NCTE | Guidelines for Affirming Gender Diversity through ELA Curriculum and Pedagogy | ncte.org/statement/guidelines-for-affirming-gender-diversity-through-ela-curriculum-and-pedagogy

A 2021 position statement from the National Council of Teachers of English providing guidance on supporting gender diversity in the classroom.

Learning for Justice | Social Justice Standards | learningforjustice.org/frameworks/social-justice-standards

A framework providing “road map[s] for anti-bias education at every stage of K-12 instruction” centered on identity, diversity, justice, and action.

Trans Equality | Model School District Policy on Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students | transequality.org/sites/default/files/images/resources/trans_school_district_model_policy_FINAL.pdf

A guide from GLSEN and the National Center for Transgender Equality.

National Coalition Against Censorship | Book Challenge Crisis Hotline | ncac.org/book-challenge-crisis-hotline

The National Coalition Against Censorship's hotline connects individuals to NCAC staff who can help defend access to LGBTQIA+ books.

NCTE | Intellectual Freedom Center | ncte.org/resources/ncte-intellectual-freedom-center

The National Council of Teachers of English resource center for intellectual freedom.

NCTE | Genders and Sexualities Equality Alliance (GSEA) | ncte.org/groups/assemblies/find-an-assembly

An affinity group for LGBTQIA+ members of the National Council of Teachers of English.

NCTE | Position Statement: The Student's Right to Read | ncte.org/statement/righttoreadguideline

Last revised in 2018, this guide provides resources that can help discuss and ensure students' free access to all texts.

HOTLINES & MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

LGBT National Help Center | glnh.org

A collection of peer phone and messaging hotlines for LGBTQIA+ people of all ages looking for resources and support.

National Queer & Trans Therapists of Color Network | nqttn.com/en

A directory of therapists who specialize in working with queer and trans BIPOC clients.

Trans Lifeline | translifeline.org

A nonprofit by and for trans people that includes a peer hotline and microgrant distribution.

The Trevor Project | Crisis Counselor Hotline | thetrevorproject.org/get-help

A crisis hotline for LGBTQIA+ young people offering texting, messaging, and phone call options.

GLOSSARY

Language is ever-changing. It is always important to ask the LGBTQIA+ people in your life what words they prefer for themselves. Here are some key words and phrases to know; the terms in this glossary are widely accepted amongst LGBTQIA+ people at the time of this printing.

agender: Having no gender identity.

allocishet: A term combining “allosexual/alloromantic,” “cisgender,” and “heterosexual/heteroromantic” that is used as a shorthand to describe people whose gender and sexuality are privileged by society.

alloromantic: Someone who is not aromantic; someone who consistently experiences romantic attraction. Sometimes shortened to “allo.”

allosexual: Someone who is not asexual; someone who consistently experiences sexual attraction. Sometimes shortened to “allo.”

aromantic: Experiencing little to no romantic attraction. Sometimes shortened to “aro.”

asexual: Experiencing little to no sexual attraction. Asexual people can be sex-repulsed, sex-neutral, or sex-positive. Some asexual people identify as gray-asexual (rarely experiencing sexual attraction) or demisexual (experiencing sexual attraction only after forming emotional intimacy). Often shortened to “ace.”

biromantic: Someone who is romantically attracted to people who share their gender and people of other genders. Sometimes shortened to “bi.”

bisexual: Someone who is sexually attracted to people who share their gender and people of other genders. Often shortened to “bi.”

cisgender: Someone whose current gender matches the gender they were assigned at birth. Sometimes shortened to “cis.”

demiboy/demigirl: Someone who identifies as partly a boy or partly a girl.

gay: Someone who is attracted to people of the same gender. Traditionally used to describe men who are attracted to men, but it is sometimes used more expansively.

gender: A socially constructed category for dividing humans. An individual’s gender is often presumed by others based on assumptions about their gender expression, pronouns, and/or assigned sex, but an individual’s gender identity can only be determined by the individual themselves.

gender dysphoria: A visceral discomfort or distress for some people when they feel their body or sex doesn’t “match” their gender.

gender expression: External expressions of a person’s gender that can include clothes, hair style, body language, and other aspects of appearance. Cultures often prescribe aspects of these expressions as “feminine” or “masculine,” but gender expression is varied. Someone’s gender should not be assumed by their gender expression.

gender identity: An individual’s internal sense of their own gender.

genderfluid: An identity term for someone whose gender changes or fluctuates.

genderqueer: A broad term for someone whose gender identity subverts the supposed gender binary.

intersex: Someone whose primary and/or secondary sex characteristics do not neatly or obviously fit into the designators “male” or “female.”

lesbian: Traditionally used to describe women who are attracted to women, some nonbinary people also use it to describe their attraction to women.

LGBTQIA+: An initialism that stands for lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual/aromantic, and more (including pansexual, two-spirit, nonbinary, and genderqueer). Some versions rearrange the letters or add additional letters, such as 2SLGBTQIA+ (2S standing for two-spirit) or GLBT (an older and narrower arrangement).

nonbinary: Someone whose gender identity does not entirely align with, and/or falls outside of, one of the binary gender categories of man or woman. Many, but not all, nonbinary people also identify as trans. This term is used both as a specific identity for individuals and as an umbrella term. Sometimes shortened to “enby.”

panromantic: Someone who is romantically attracted to people regardless of their gender. Sometimes shortened to “pan.”

pansexual: Someone who is sexually attracted to people regardless of their gender. Sometimes shortened to “pan.”

pronouns: Most people have pronouns that are sometimes used instead of their name. Some people do not have pronouns, instead using their name in all circumstances. Some people are comfortable with any pronouns. Some people use one set of pronouns (for example, just “he” or just “they”), while others use multiple (for example, “they/ze” or “he/she/they”).

queer: A term historically wielded as an insult by allocishet people, “queer” has now been reappropriated by many—though not all—LGBTQIA+ people. It is now used in several ways: as an umbrella term and inclusive shorthand for referring to multiple specific identities within the LGBTQIA+ community; and as an identifier for a person who is not heterosexual and/or whose gender identity is not cisgender (without the need for further or more specific self-identification).

questioning: When someone is unsure of or reconsidering their gender identity or sexuality.

sapphic: A general term for women or femmes who are romantically and/or sexually attracted to women.

sex: Assigned at birth, sex is most often determined by external genitalia. Often assumed to be a binary of female and male, sex has significant variety and includes intersex.

sexual orientation: A pattern of sexual attraction to people with the same or different gender identities. Although romantic orientation is separate, they are often blended together both by individuals and culturally.

transgender: An umbrella term for people whose gender identity is different than the gender they were assigned at birth. While some transgender people also identify as nonbinary, many have a gender identity that is either “man” or “woman.” Sometimes shortened to “trans.”

two-spirit: An umbrella term specifically for Native American/First Nations/Indigenous people who do not identify within the colonialist gender binary. Sometimes shortened to “2S.”

LGBTQIA+ BOOK LIST

Use this grid to ensure your bookshelves include diverse LGBTQIA+ representation, and to support readers in finding books that depict specific queer identities and experiences. Grouped by age range and tagged with the identity/ies represented, the books on this grid include queer main character(s), queer family member(s), and/or clear LGBTQIA+ representation that is relevant to the main story arc.

PICTURE BOOK / EARLY READER (AGES 0–8)	AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR	LGBTQIA+ FAMILY MEMBER	LESBIAN / SAPPIC	GAY	BI / PAN	TRANSGENDER	NONBINARY / GENDERFLUID	QUEER	QUESTIONING	INTERSEX	ARO / ACE / DEMI
Awake, Asleep	Kyle Lukoff & Nadia Alam	•						•			
Dragon Masters #22: Guarding the Invisible Dragons: A Branches Book	Tracey West & Matt Loveridge						•				
Forever Home	Henry Cole	•						•			
Llama Glamarama	Simon James Green & Garry Parsons							MC			
Mermaid Days: A Branches series	Kyle Lukoff & Kat Uno						MC				
My Moms Love Me *	Anna Membrino & Joy Hwang Ruiz	•						•			
Prince Sacha's Fierce, Fabulous, Fancy Day	Jon Lau						MC				

MIDDLE GRADE (AGES 8–12)	AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR	LGBTQIA+ FAMILY MEMBER	LESBIAN / SAPPIC	GAY	BI / PAN	TRANSGENDER	NONBINARY / GENDERFLUID	QUEER	QUESTIONING	INTERSEX	ARO / ACE / DEMI
A Touch of Ruckus	Ash Van Otterloo						•	MC			
Alice Austen Lived Here	Alex Gino	•	•				MC	•			
Battle Dragons series	Alex London	•					•	•			
The Beautiful Something Else *	Ash Van Otterloo	•				•	MC	MC			•
Cattywampus	Ash Van Otterloo	•						•		MC	
The Dragon Prince #2: Bloodmoon Huntress: A Graphic Novel	Nicole Andelfinger & Felia Hanakata	•						•			
Drama: A Graphic Novel	Raina Telgemeier			•							
Elle Campbell Wins Their Weekend	Ben Kahn		•		•		MC		•		
Gallowgate	K.R. Alexander			MC				•			
Green	Alex Gino	•	•	•	•	•	MC	MC	•		•
Hurricane Child	Kacen Callender		MC								
Jude Saves the World *	Ronnie Riley			•	MC		MC		•		
Kaleidoscope	Brian Selznick							MC			
Kinda Like Brothers	Coe Booth			•							
King and the Dragonflies	Kacen Callender			MC					MC		
The Language of Seabirds *	Will Taylor			MC				•			
The Lottery Plus One	Emma Donoghue & Caroline Hadilaksono	•	•	•		•	•				
The Marvels	Brian Selznick	•		MC							
Melissa (previously published as George) *	Alex Gino					MC					
Meow or Never: A Wish Novel	Jazz Taylor	•	MC								
Moonflower *	Kacen Callender						MC				
The Moon Within	Aida Salazar						•				
My Fate According to the Butterfly	Gail D. Villanueva	•			•						
One True Way	Shannon Hitchcock		MC								
Parachute Kids: A Graphic Novel	Betty C. Tang	•		•							
The Parker Inheritance	Varian Johnson	•		•				•			
Rick	Alex Gino	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	MC		MC
Starting From Scratch: A Wish Novel *	Jazz Taylor	•	•				•				
The Witch Boy: A Graphic Novel series	Molly Knox Ostertag	•					MC	•			
Witchlings series *	Claribel A. Ortega		•				•	•			
You Don't Know Everything, Jilly P!	Alex Gino	•	•								

MC indicates main character representation. • indicates side character representation. * indicates a 2023 Read With Pride featured title.

YOUNG ADULT (AGES 12+)	AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR	LGBTQIA+ FAMILY MEMBER	LESBIAN / SAPPHIC	GAY	BI / PAN	TRANSGENDER	NONBINARY / GENDERFLUID	QUEER	QUESTIONING	INTERSEX	ARO / ACE / DEMI
A Very, Very Bad Thing	Jeffery Self			MC							
And She Was	Jessica Verdi	•				•					
As Long As We're Together	Brianna Peppins		MC					•			
Beholder	Ryan La Sala	•	•	•	MC		•	•			
The Bridge	Bill Konigsberg			MC							
Debating Darcy	Sayantani DasGupta			•							
Destination Unknown *	Bill Konigsberg		•	MC							
Drag Teen	Jeffery Self			MC							
The Dreamer Trilogy	Maggie Stiefvater		MC	MC	MC			•			
The Feeling of Falling in Love *	Mason Deaver	•		•		MC	•	•	•		
Fire Becomes Her	Rosiee Thor		•		MC	•	•	•			MC
Follow Your Arrow	Jessica Verdi		•	•	MC	•		•			
Gay Club! *	Simon James Green		•	MC	•	•		•			•
The Ghosts We Keep	Mason Deaver	•		•	•	•	MC	•			
The Girl from the Sea: A Graphic Novel	Molly Knox Ostertag		MC								
Going Viral	Katie Ciatelli-Kuc		MC								
Heartstopper: A Graphic Novel series	Alice Oseman	•	MC	MC	•				MC		•
Here the Whole Time	Vitor Martins (Trans. Larissa Helena)	•	MC	•							
Honestly Ben	Bill Konigsberg			•				MC	MC		
The Honeys *	Ryan La Sala		•	MC			MC	•	•		
I Felt a Funeral, In My Brain	Will Walton			MC							
I Was Born for This *	Alice Oseman			MC	•	MC			MC		
I Wish You All the Best	Mason Deaver						MC	MC			
Into the Bloodred Woods	Martha Brockenbrough		MC								
K-Pop Revolution	Stephan Lee	•	•				•				
Lethal Lit series	K. Ancrum, Micol Ostow	•	•	•	MC						
Library of Broken Worlds *	Alaya Dawn Johnson				MC		•				
The Love and Lies of Rukhsana Ali	Sabina Khan		MC	•							
Love Is the Drug	Alaya Dawn Johnson		•								
Love Letters for Joy *	Melissa See	•	•	•	MC			•			MC
Loveless	Alice Oseman	•	•	•	•		•		MC		MC
Magical Boy: A Graphic Novel series *	The Kao		•	•		MC					
Meet Me in Mumbai	Sabina Khan	•	•	•							
Monarch Rising	Harper Glenn		•	•				•			
The Music of What Happens	Bill Konigsberg			MC							
Muted	Tami Charles		MC					•			
Nick & Charlie *	Alice Oseman			MC	MC	•					
The Night of Your Life	Lydia Sharp	•	•		•	•					
Openly Straight	Bill Konigsberg			MC					•		
Out of the Fire	Andrea Contos		•								
The Porcupine of Truth	Bill Konigsberg	•	•	•							
Ready When You Are	Gary Lonesborough			MC					MC		
Rise to the Sun	Leah Johnson		MC		MC			MC			
Rosewood: A Midsummer Meet Cute	Sayantani DasGupta	•	•		•			•			
Run	Kody Keplinger				MC						
Sixteen Souls	Rosie Talbot			MC		•			•		
Solitaire	Alice Oseman	•		•				•			
Stars in Their Eyes: A Graphic Novel	Jessica Walton & Aśka				MC		•	•			
The Summer Prince	Alaya Dawn Johnson	•	•		MC			•			
Tarnished Are the Stars	Rosiee Thor		MC					MC	•		MC
Technically, You Started It	Lana Wood Johnson				MC						MC
Tell Me No Lies	Andrea Contos				MC						
That's Not What Happened	Kody Keplinger		•								MC

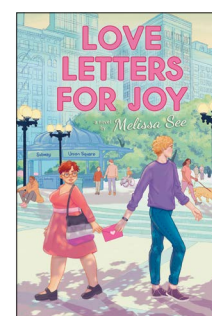
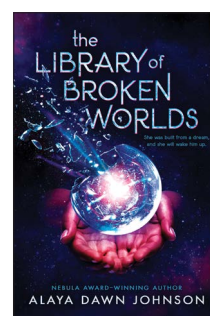
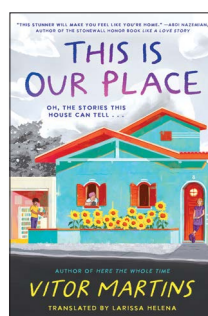
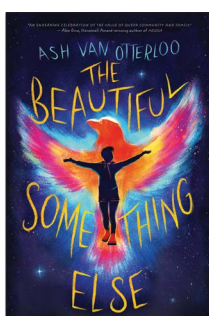
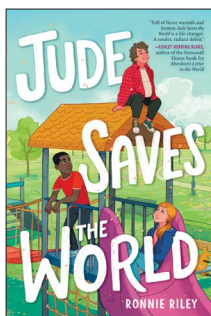
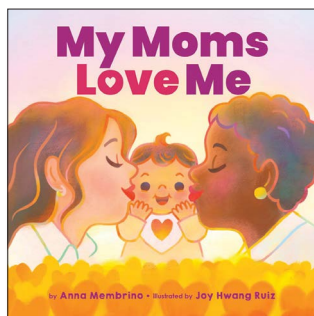
MC indicates main character representation. • indicates side character representation. * indicates a 2023 Read With Pride featured title.

LGBTQIA+ BOOK LIST (CONTINUED)

YOUNG ADULT (AGES 12+)	AUTHOR / ILLUSTRATOR	LGBTQIA+ FAMILY MEMBER	LESBIAN / SAPPHIC	GAY	BI / PAN	TRANSGENDER	NONBINARY / GENDERFLUID	QUEER	QUESTIONING	INTERSEX	ARO / ACE / DEMI
The Half-Life of Love	Brianna Bourne		•	•							
Things We Couldn't Say	Jay Coles	•			MC			•			
This Is Our Place *	Vitor Martins (Trans. Larissa Helena)		MC	MC	MC						
This Winter	Alice Oseman	•		MC	•						
Unbecoming	Jenny Downham		MC						MC		
Welcome to St. Hell: My Trans Teen Misadventure: A Graphic Novel	Lewis Hancox		•		•	MC			MC		
What a Desi Girl Wants	Sabina Khan		MC					•			
Where We Go From Here	Lucas Rocha (Trans. Larissa Helena)			MC				•			
The Witchery series	S. Isabelle		MC					MC			
You Should See Me in a Crown	Leah Johnson		MC								
Zara Hossain Is Here	Sabina Khan	•			MC						

MC indicates main character representation. • indicates side character representation. * indicates a 2023 Read With Pride featured title.

2023 TITLE SPOTLIGHT



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ABOUT THE WRITER OF THIS GUIDE

Kazia Berkley-Cramer (she/they) is a children's librarian outside of Boston, Massachusetts. They've served on the American Library Association's Stonewall and Sibert book award committees, co-founded the Stonewall Award speculation blog Medal on My Mind, and they review for *Kirkus Reviews*. In addition to their MS in library and information science, they hold an MA in Children's Literature. They love thinking about representation in youth literature and can be found occasionally sharing their thoughts on social media @mxrumphius.



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